



Pages 12-13 East the future for classical

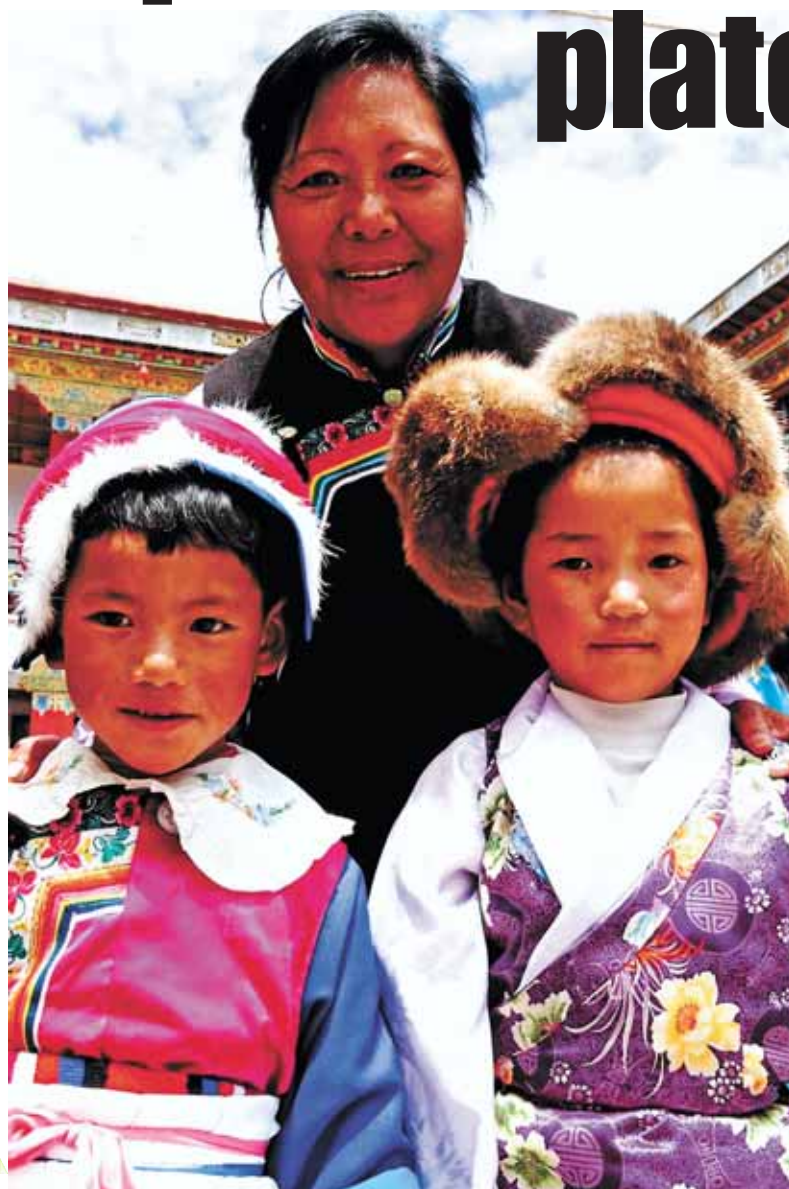
Myung-Whun Chung is back in Beijing with his orchestra, a powerhouse of Asia's top musical talents.



Page 15 Succulents? Horticulture light

These hardy plants are becoming the new pets of lazy youths and the rat race.

Orphans of the plateau



Tendol Gyalzur, born in Tibet, was orphaned at 12 when illness took her parents. Educated abroad in Switzerland by her foster parents, she lived there and enjoyed an easy life.

But childhood memories brought her back to her homeland in her 40s to found Tibet's first private orphanage. Her three orphanages are now home to 300 children from different cultures.

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Tendol Gyalzur and two of her orphaned girls. The trio posed in 2003 on the 10th anniversary of the founding of the orphanage. Xinhua photo

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Freelance photographer snaps pictures as firefighter drowns

By Wang Yu

Zhang Liang, a 25-year-old firefighter, died while cleaning up the oil spill that tainted waters in Dalian, Liaoning Province last month. His death has become a national topic since a series of photos of his death was published.

On July 16, four days after the oil pipeline burst, Jianghe (pseudonym) arrived in Dalian to cover the story. The 50-year-old from Zhejiang Province has reported on pollution as a photojournalist for 30 years.

Jianghe was walking along a

small bay at 8:25 am when he saw two firefighters, Zhang and Han Xiaoxiong, cutting fishing nets in the ocean.

The local government said the firefighters were there to control a floating pump used to suppress the oil's advance. However, the pump jammed often and the men had to go into the ocean to clean it every hour.

During the operation, Zhang and Han were pulled under the surface oil by the ocean current.

Jianghe shot 47 photos of the firefighters' five-minute struggle as Han was rescued by squad

captain Zheng Zhanhong.

Han was unconscious when Zheng dragged him ashore.

Zhang was dragged away by the riptide and perished. His body washed ashore at 2 pm in a sea farm. The firefighter's wedding was supposed to be the next day.

China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC), the company responsible for the oil spill, did not send a representative to Zhang's memorial service.

The photographer, a capable swimmer, uploaded his photos to the Internet, where many criticized him for just watching the

firefighters struggle.

Jianghe said it was not until later that he realized the severity of the situation, and that he still regrets his failure to act.

"If I were him, I couldn't just stand there taking photos of people as they died," said He Yuxin, a weekly editor.

"But I think it is not a moral issue. After all, a photojournalist's job is to photograph the news in a way that moves people. Every tragedy presents a professional dilemma."

"I think the press, especially online, is wrong for posting pic-

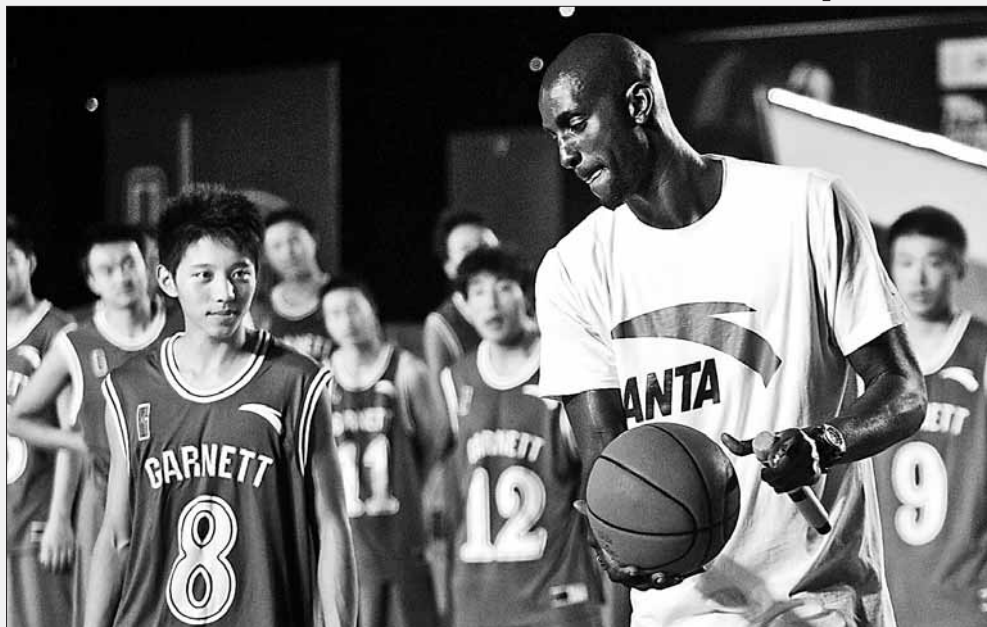
tures of the dying firefighters. It's just profiting from a tragedy, and I can't see the necessity of it," said Vincent Wen, a network engineer.

"What if the firefighter's family sees these photos? It will just break their hearts again and again," he said.

Jianghe said it was the oil that killed Zhang, and that it was a shame CNPC didn't attend his memorial service to show its regrets.

The local government announced Monday that the oil spill is under control.

NBA star endorses Chinese sportswear



By Chu Meng

Basketball star Kevin Garnett of the Boston Celtics teaches young basketball fans at the Chaoyang Gymnasium.

ANTA Sports, a leading sportswear enterprise, signed Garnett as its second NBA player on Monday.

The company also signed Luis Scola earlier that morning. Scola is finishing a one-week tour, where he will participate in a series of basketball events under the theme "For Basketball. Choose China."

CFP Photo

Explorer's death a reminder of subway dangers

By Li Zhixin

The rapid development of Beijing's subway system has caught the attention of a new group of subway adventurers out to explore the unfinished subway stations of big cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Tianjin.

However, the death of one young explorer has reminded many in the group of the dangers of their hobby.

Yu Xuexuan, 20, a librarian, was found dead Wednesday night in a tunnel connected to Xingong Station on the Daxing Line now under construction. He fell into a 4-meter-deep pit full of water where he became ensnared in wiring.

By the time rescue workers drained the pit, Yu was already dead.

Yu was a public transportation enthusiast. He was very active in online bus forums like

92bus.com, gongjiaomi.com and zgts.5d6d.com.

"When he found out the Daxing Line would pass by his house he became fascinated with it, especially with Xindong station," Guan Yu, one of his friends, said.

Yu was also an active member of ditiezu.com, a subway forum with 100,000 registered readers, 30,000 of whom engage in subway adventuring. Approximately a third of its registered users are in Beijing, the website said.

Although Yu was exploring alone — something all explorers consider dangerous — his death was met with a strong response.

"This was a bloody lesson for us," said Chang Hao, the forum's founder. "Many subway fans in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Taipei signed up to commemorate Yu and appeal to younger readers not to venture

into the unfinished stations."

The day of his death, the website and Beijing Subway Company both announced their opposition to subway exploration, as unfinished stations can contain many life-threatening dangers.

Chang said subway exploration can be traced back to the Beijing Olympic Games. The rapid construction that began in 2008 brought more attention to subway development. Many enthusiasts snuck into unfinished construction sites to monitor progress and snap photos that would earn them bragging rights on the BBS.

"Although there are warnings not to enter the construction sites, a lot of people don't seem to care about the illegality of trespassing or about their safety. Granted, it is also a problem that the entrances to these subway sites are not more strictly moni-



Although there are warnings not to enter subway sites under construction, their exploration remains popular.

Photo provided by Ditiezu.com

tored," Chang said.

Currently there are no laws or regulations to prohibit private

subway exploration in China.

"All we can do is appeal to people's sense of discipline," he said.



Tendol Gyalzur and her 50-plus "daughters and sons".



Tendol Gyalzur's Children's Home in Shangri-La, Yunnan.

Photos provided by Tendol Gyalzur

The gift of childhood

Tibetan orphan returns to homeland to run orphanage

Zhaxi Qidan, a 24-year-old Tibetan boy, works as an auto mechanic and earns a fair salary. He is shy and hides his eyes behind a pair of sunglasses, but there is a smile on his face as he speaks.

He is one of 80 orphans who have left Tendol Gyalzur's orphanage to work in the real world.

Many of his fellow orphans have found good jobs and become productive members of society. Zhaxi said one of his Han friends from the orphanage graduated from a military academy in Kunming Province and now commands 35 soldiers in Sichuan Province.

"It is wonderful if an adult orphan can serve his people and his country. It shows the success of an orphanage," Gyalzur said. Her orphanages focus on education and vocational training, which provides the children with skills that can ensure their livelihood.

Gyalzur runs three orphanages in Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region, Shangri-La, Yunnan Province and Lithang, Sichuan Province.

Returning to Tibet

"When I was 12 years old, I was adopted by my German foster parents," she said. "I had a very nice childhood in Germany and later in Switzerland. My standard of living was very comfortable even by European standards of that time."

After finishing school she went on to pursue higher education in medicine. As a surgeon's assistant, she had a high income that allowed her to live a luxurious life.

Even in Europe she had opportunities to study Chinese and read Chairman Mao's Quotations. "I also learned some Tibetan after school," she said.

Her teacher Losang, with whom she later fell in love and married, was also a Tibetan orphan. In the 1970s, the two started a family and had two sons in Switzerland.

Gyalzur returned to her homeland for the first time in the early 1990s. There she saw two children wandering through a Lhasan bazaar in dirty clothes. She took the children to a restaurant to get a meal, but the manager refused to seat them. Gyalzur fought with the manager until they were allowed inside.

"It was the first time in my life that I realized that the only thing I wanted to do was to fight for the rights of these abandoned children," she said.

Most travelers bound for Tibet are interested in religion, scenery or people. But Gyalzur could think only

By Chu Meng

Tendol Gyalzur was born in Tibet in the 1950s.

Orphaned at 12 when her parents died of illness, Gyalzur was adopted by a German couple and taken to Switzerland and given an education. After finishing her studies in medicine, the young Tibetan woman began a comfortable life with her husband and sons.

But childhood memories were slow to fade.

Gyalzur, then in her 40s, decided to leave her job as a surgeon's assistant to care for other orphans in her native Tibet.

For Tibet, it was the birth of the autonomous region's first private orphanage: for 300 orphans from seven minorities, it was a chance at a happy childhood.



Han, Tibetan and children of other minorities live together.

of the orphans.

"I was so moved by these children that I decided to do something for them. There are orphans all over the world, but I am Tibetan and I wanted to help the orphans in Tibet," she said.

Even after returning to her husband and two sons in Switzerland her memories of the orphans

haunted her.

From six to hundreds

And so she thought to start an orphanage.

Gyalzur vowed to return to Tibet in 1993, and with help from the Tibet Development Fund (TDF) under China's Ministry of Civil Affairs – along with \$28,000 (190,000 yuan) from her personal savings, her hus-

band's pension and donations and loans from family and friends – she opened Tibet's first private orphanage in Lhasa.

"The TDF helped me at the start. They taught me how the system worked and explained all the legal procedures I would have to go through," she said.

The China of 1993 was a foreign country for Gyalzur.

Nothing was easy at the beginning, due in part to poor planning. Initially she had planned to rent a home to use as an orphanage, but the TDF said it would be better to build a structure.

The Tibetan regional government offered her a site in Toelung on the outskirts of Lhasa and construction began in May 1992.

"That was why this project worked – with the help of so many people, both in Europe and in Tibet, from Tibetan Autonomous Region's government and from the public," she said.

Everyone worked day and night, and the orphanage opened in October, 1993 with seven children and a couple of foster parents. Gyalzur selected the children from 50 who needed homes.

Since then, 57 children have lived in the orphanage, and 27 have moved on to pursue careers and families of their own.

In 1997, Gyalzur opened a second orphanage – now home to 54 children – in her husband's hometown of Shangri-La, Yunnan Province.

Another 63 children of nomadic herders live in a third orphanage in western Sichuan Province, which Gyalzur started in 2002. The three centers operate on an annual budget of \$280,000 (1.9 million yuan) drawn from local governments, domestic volunteers and private donors in the US and Europe.

Family life

At the Shangri-La orphanage, children play basketball in the front courtyard and teens cook and wash clothes. The orphans welcome visitors with song and dance in a new performing arts space.

On weekdays at the orphanage in Lhasa, children under six study English and Chinese. Older children attend class. All children attend local primary, middle and vocational schools and return to the orphanage on weekends and holidays. "The orphanage is our home. We can go back whenever we want. We call Tendol Grandma," Zhaxi said.

"Many people can learn from

the children how to live in peace: we have children from seven minorities, and each one has a different background," Gyalzur said.

Foreign universities send students to volunteer at Gyalzur's orphanage in Shangri-La. The *Lonely Planet* guidebook recommends it as one of 10 organizations fostering awareness of Tibet and aiding the Tibetan people.

"I have been helping Tendol since 2001, and she is one of the most amazing, selfless women I have ever met," says Rick Montgomery, executive director of Seattle-based Global Roots, a NGO dedicated to improving the lives of children around the world.

Montgomery met Gyalzur while traveling in China, and her selfless work inspired him to start Global Roots, which supports charities across the world. Since 2001, Global Roots has provided food, blankets, kitchen supplies and bicycles to Gyalzur's orphanages.

Though inspiring, Gyalzur's work strained her family life. Her eldest son, Songtsen Gyalzur now an adult, said he resented his mother when she disappeared for months at a time to work in China. "We were quite angry with her," Songtsen Gyalzur said.

While his mother was away, he helped his father cook and sell shabales – Tibetan beef patties, outside a mall in Zurich to raise money for the orphanage. "All my friends went skiing or ice-skating on weekends, and I was making shabales for the orphans," he said.

But her family came around last year. Her husband quit his factory job and sons sold their Swiss real estate company to assist in the orphanages. Songtsen Gyalzur opened a car repair shop in Shangri-La and invested \$50,000 (340,000 yuan) in two restaurants that provide jobs for eight of the adult orphans.

"They see my parents as theirs, so in a way they are like my brothers and sisters," Songtsen Gyalzur said.

Yishi Dolma was 10 when she was found 17 years ago. "Moving into the orphanage was like having a home," said Dolma, now a full-time foster parent at the Shangri-La orphanage. The Lhasa orphanage also has two foster parents who live on-site.

Gyalzur hopes to raise more money to offer the older children a chance to get a professional education. She hopes her orphanages will continue to grow and give the children a better future.

Eighth day of the week?

Weeko8.com turns anecdotes into cash

By Liang Meilan

eBay, one of the few survivors of the dot-com bubble that rocked IT in the late 1990s, has been a model for countless smaller copycats. But creativity has been the exception among clones. First there was the Belgian site Zilok, founded to auction rented services, and then UK-based Sweemo, selling life moments.

Now China too may have hit on a new model: Weeko8.com, a website trading real and tested experiences.

Since last June, the idealistic start-up has been creating a stir in the e-commerce field with its new ideas. But new ideas are not a guarantee of success.



From unknown to OK

Drawing on his background in e-commerce, Xiong Xinxiang believes he has found a perfect match between online auctioning and his life philosophy: Weeko8, a website updated dynamically to sell new stories about daily experiences.

"Life is punctuated by question marks and OKs," the CEO says. "The experiences gained from everything in between are precious, valuable on their own and useful for others."

The CEO, now in his 40s, is also the boss of an IT company and is one of the shareholders in one of the top information websites, Zhubajie.

"We consider our boss a philosopher and admire his strong belief

that it is not only the experiences of accomplished people which should be recorded in books. There is value in the small bits of wisdom ordinary people gain from daily life," said He Ping, manager of Weeko8.

The site attempts to draw on profitable assets usually left buried in people's minds to turn them into documents that can be sold via online auction. "Experiences being auctioned on the website vary from subtle tips on child rearing to making sure your company's secrets stay secret," He said.

"The value of these experiences is demonstrated only when passed on to the right people. Weeko8 uses the wide availability and

interactivity of the Internet to get these experiences to the people who might benefit from them," said Wang Song, e-commerce expert with IResearch.cn, a research website specializing in new economy analysis. "This model is significant for people who need tested solutions to the kinds of problems that appear while on the job."

From its inception, the website has targeted office workers who spend their life in front of a terminal. "Weeko8 as a name signifies that we give workers a new 'eighth workday' where the website can work for them by turning their summary of experiences into extra money," He said.



Weeko8 staff

Photo by Li Xiaotian

Cooperating to produce

"When I first registered on Weeko8 two months ago, I was thinking about posting some of the useful things I have read online. I was surprised when the site's consultant told me they only accept original articles about real experiences," said Wang Yongqing, 27, a teacher.

Unlike Taobao, Xiong's site is not simply a marketplace.

"We are a factory where countless documents are filtered and edited before being listed. The process is a bit like publishing a book. We have to check for plagiarism and make careful edits," He, the manager, said.

Early in its operation, one user tried to put up the full text of Harry Potter for sale. To stop this and other quality control nightmares, Weeko8 now passes all new listings past a group of 20 part-time editors who are experts in various fields.

"Since I started I made an extra 700 yuan selling experience 'books'. But the experience has given me more than money. I learned a lot by working with

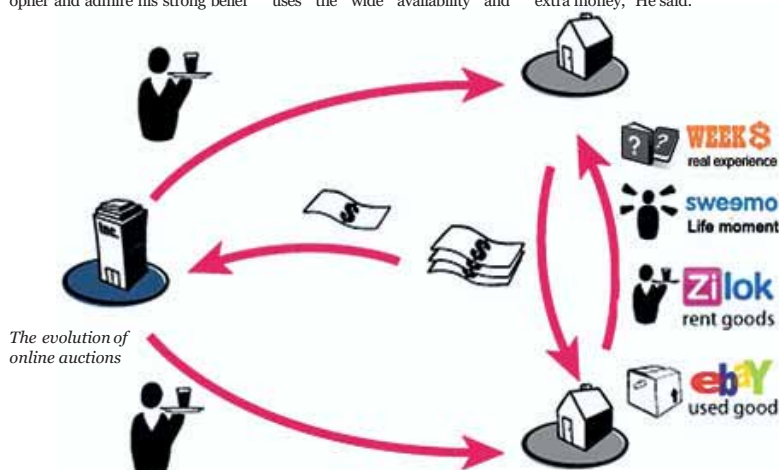
professional editors who gave me many useful suggestions," said Wang, now one of the part-time editors.

"Weeko8 is different from Baidu Zhidao, which offers unfiltered experience for free. Many of the answers are poorly written or obviously fake. The fight against fake information is a tough one, so we are always trying to enlarge our group of core editors," He said.

As more users sign up to write on more subjects, keeping track of bad information is becoming a challenge. One of the largest problems is plagiarism: some users' articles can be found on other websites with another person's name attached.

"Though we clarified in the disclaimer that such copyright infringement by users is none of our business, we still try our best to do what's right," He said.

The website recently introduced a feedback and rating system so plagiarists can be flagged by the people they deceive.



Community-driven trade

"Weeko8 has also helped me to make some friends. Even though we live in different cities, we can still share ideas using the blog function on the website. Communicating with them has become an important part of my life," Wang Yongqing said.

"We define ourselves as a

social networking service auction platform, and that basically means we bring together like-minded people to help each other," He said.

Its functions also include a micro-blog, where users can deliver brief updates about new ideas to attract potential

consumers.

"One day when I was updating my micro-blog, I saw a reply from a businessman saying he wanted me to help draft the plans for a new TV channel," Wang said.

"I accepted the offer even though I'm a teacher. It took three days of hard work, but the plan

was approved. That experience of working outside my expertise gave me something new to write about for the online shop."

He Ping said that the site intends to add a forum and community system that would help users to connect within their age group and industry.

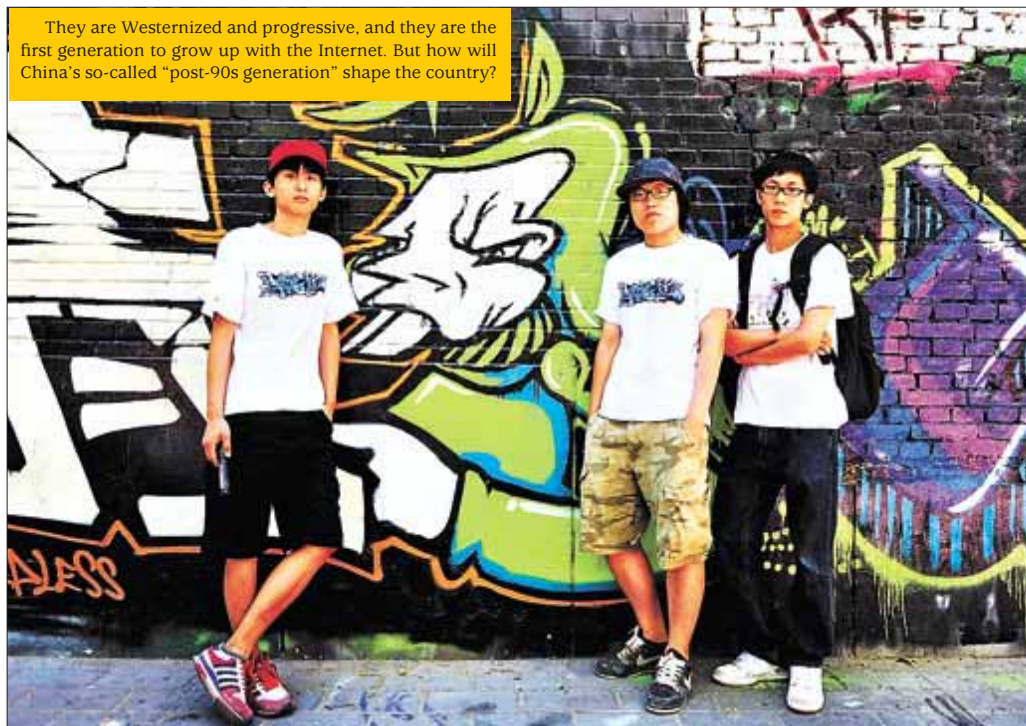
"Connecting the model with social media is the best way to tap into the public's hidden knowledge and skills," he said.

But regardless of whether or not Weeko8 becomes the success its staff expects, the startup is proving to be a valuable experience.

The next generation

How will Internet-savvy teens affect the nation?

They are Westernized and progressive, and they are the first generation to grow up with the Internet. But how will China's so-called "post-90s generation" shape the country?



Forward-thinking or self-absorbed? Some think '90s generation kids are future leaders well-versed in online life.

IC Photo

A recent CNN article about Chinese teens said they are often labeled "lazy, promiscuous, confused, selfish, brain damaged and overall hopeless." According to the article, the '90s generation is different from earlier ones because today's kids "have no memory of the country's tumultuous past" and have only lived in a time of rapid economic growth underscored by rampant consumerism and globalization.

"They have only known a life in China that is rising and affluent," Frank Yu, a Beijing-based Internet analyst, was quoted as saying.

"They are considered a wild card generation. They are very aggressive and outward looking and are pretty confident because they never felt hardship."

They have also grown up in the age of the Internet, which has dramatically shaped their worldviews. Kevin Lee, chief operating officer for Beijing-based China Youthology, told CNN, "When they turn away from the Internet and look at the real world, they see that nothing has changed, there is this huge disconnect in their minds."

Lee said the new generation's

minds are always in online mode. "When their real world is not even moving, not even budging, they feel powerless. And so where do they escape? They go back to the Internet."

The article cited a post on the blog China Hush titled, "A Series of Post-90s Generation's Bad Behaviors," which showed some shocking sexual content.

But the '90s generation has its share of defenders. Han Yinbo, co-author of *An Exploding Internet Revolution*, told CNN, "In the virtual world, they learn how to be leaders, to solve

interpersonal conflicts."

What will the '90s kids be like when they mature into adults and become employees?

Don Tapscott, author of *Grown Up Digital: How the Net Generation is Changing Your World*, believes people born in the '90s are more entrepreneurial than their predecessors.

"Yes, they will effect change, and yes, they have a completely different culture than their parents," Tapscott said in the CNN article. "What happens online does materialize. It does drive behavior change in the real world."

The third eye

Understanding the country's different generations

By Huang Daohen

History is like a tale with different generations representing separate chapters. If you want to know a country, you should understand its strata of generations first.

That is what Jeff Bass, a visiting scholar from the US at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, has been doing since coming to China in 2003.

In the West, there are names for people of different generations, like the baby boomers, the busters, Gen X and Gen Y. "It is useful in showing the broad differences in culture between each of these generations," Bass said.

But what about in China, especially after the founding of the People's Republic? Having spoken to a number of locals, Bass, who is currently studying modern Chinese history, said he can identify four distinct generations.

Cautious '70s

Bass refers to people born before 1980 as conservative and cautious. This generation grew up during the early years of New China and lived through difficult times.

"They tend to be more conservative and hold traditional Chinese values," he said.

Privileged '80s

'80s children are much luckier than their parents, Bass said. This generation grew up in a society that had just opened up amid an economic boom. Due to the launch of the one-child policy in 1979, many '80s children were "little emperors" often spoiled by parents and relatives.

"They grew up alone and were given every privilege by their parents and grandparents," Bass said.

Progressive '90s

Compared to the '80s, this generation grew up only knowing a prosperous China. In the '90s, the country transformed its centrally planned economy into a socialist market economy.

Although their parents doted them on as well, this generation relies more on friends. They prefer turning to fellow netizens for advice when they encounter setbacks and are more progressive, Bass said.

Westernized haigui

One generation that should not be ignored is the *haigui*, which refers to those who have returned to the country after having studied abroad. Bass said this is not really a generation but a significant sub-group of the '80s generation.

They are comparatively independent and, more importantly, have a taste for Western lifestyles and a greater awareness of Western ideas, he said.

Under spotlight

A generation as sensible as predecessors

By Li Zhixin

Jiao Yang, an 18-year-old freshman in the English major at Communication University of China, disdains popular labels of his generation as "spoiled" and "indulgent."

"We live in a society with more material goods and our lives are relatively better now than in times past, but that doesn't mean we're heavily spoiled," he said.

"It's true that young people of my generation are more open and expressive than those of older generations, but those of us who show off their wealth or their lavish lifestyles don't represent all of us," Jiao said. "They're really the outcasts."

Like his peers who grew up under the influence of the Internet, Jiao is adept at various com-

puter games and has profiles on social networking sites. "Sometimes my roommates and I skip class and sneak back to the dormitory to play computer games or chat with friends on QQ or Renren, but generally speaking, we're good students," he said.

Jiao said one of the differences between his generation and ones preceding it are the values that are deemed important. Older generations prefer to talk about responsibility, collectivism and dedication, while '90s kids are more concerned about equality, individualism and gratification. "It's hard to say which is good or bad, it is just a different outlook on life, and it doesn't mean we ignore our parents' good qualities," he said.

Although Jiao has no idea

what he will do after graduation, he has a clear short-term goal. He plans to pass some important tests, like the TEM4 (Test for English Major Band 4) and the TEM8. "I know I have to be responsible for myself, and I don't want to let my parents down," Jiao said.

Another young adult who has taken life into her own hands is Li Ling, born in 1990, whose decisions have made her a traitor in her parents' eyes. After failing her university entrance exam, she went to Shanghai to seek her fortune with her friends without her parents' permission.

"I can't stomach my parents' educational method," she said. "They usually impose their will on me, which makes me stressed. So I just want to prove that I can manage myself well without

their endless chatter."

Li found a job at a property agency and, though pay is low in the big city, she feels a sense of pride in her work as a saleswoman.

"I think many people of the '90s generation are more independent and confident than in older generations," Li said. "In fact, we can stand on our own feet through our effort, courage, intelligence and passion. The only problem is we are coddled too much and for too long."

Li said many of her friends of the same age are very sensible. They know it is difficult for their parents to earn money and support them, "so they open online stores or do part-time jobs to earn money to support themselves, even if their families are better off," she said.

Investment environment going worse?

Many Western media have grumbled about the alleged deterioration of China's investment environment. They say discrimination toward foreign investors is growing, and foreign enterprises are having a hard time staying in business.

But entrepreneurs and economists from around the world are divided on whether this deterioration is real.



Take complaints seriously

**Jason Ding, vice president,
Roland Berger Strategy Consultants (Greater China)**

In the 2010 Business Confidence Report conducted for the European Chamber of Commerce in China, we found 48 percent of interviewees said local trade protection and a dislike of foreign investment were the top non-market risks. This was at a time when most people worried about the global economy, Chinese economy, com-

petitiveness and rising labor costs.

Thirty-nine percent of our interviewees said they were troubled by how unevenly the government applies its laws and regulations. They also complained about overly complex registration guidelines, intellectual property protection and obtaining visas and procedures for working permits.

We should be cautious with these complaints. Managing leaders usually do not raise such concerns arbitrarily. These complaints are not a "conspiracy" to break China - I believe these worries are their true feelings. It shows they are targeting long-term business strategies and expecting our system to improve: they are not in it for short-term profits.

Opening up a fundamental choice

Huang Deyin, president, Amway (China)

Opening up is a policy to which China has been committed for three decades. Its investment environment has been improving over the years, especially in business law and intellectual property protection.

All these seemed to be going well during the first half of this year when the central govern-

ment released its document stating how it would further improve its use of foreign capital.

The Guidelines for Foreign Investment published by the Ministry of Commerce have been revised four times since they were first published in the early 1980s. Each step has further opened investment sectors. China has opened nearly 100

of the sectors listed by the World Trade Organization - far more than the average of 54 sectors seen in most developing countries.

In 1998, the central government banned all direct-sales businesses. But considering the big domestic direct selling giants and foreign players, it lifted the ban only a few years later.



Still open and satisfactory

Huang Hui, chairman & CEO, Shiguang Investment

We have to put China's situation in the context of the world financial crisis. Frankly speaking, China's economic environment is still open, though the steps involved in changing policy have slowed down. There has also been a lack of transparency in some

public bids, problems with protecting intellectual property and a failure to bust monopolies.

But this should not be a fatal to foreign investment - take them as early warnings of things which will demand government attention. Multinational companies are an

important force in helping Chinese businesses enter the West, especially the US. While they may harp on these issues, it shows they have a frank, open and practical approach to business. If we lose their support, their home countries might resume their protectionism.

Great market potentiality

Ge Jun, executive board member, Intel China

Since China joined the World Trade Organization, we have seen the central government make incredible efforts to improve market access and to reform its taxes, tariffs and intellectual property protection laws.

Our company has set up plants in Chengdu, Sichuan Province and Dalian, Liaoning Province. Throughout the process we received tre-

mendous help and support from all levels of government. Their high efficiency and effectiveness helped us solve many problems.

China is the largest market for television sets, mobile phones, automobiles and Internet, and it is expected to become the largest for PCs. To Intel, China means great potential.

The country is also becoming

one of the most important bases of research and development. We set up the Intel China Academy and Asia Pacific Research Center in China to combine local knowledge with our research and use the results in the Chinese market.

We're confident about the market's potential and will continue to invest for long-term growth.

(By Zhao Hongyi)



Market watch

By Huang Daohen

Has the country's investment environment deteriorated? Zhao Xiao, an economics professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, said he prefers to trust data more than speculation.

Zhao said that while many foreign companies say the investment environment is worsening, "the statistics tell a different story."

According to a report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, China remained a paradise for FDI (foreign direct investments) last year as the world economy was dogged by financial crisis.

Worldwide FDI fell 39 per-

cent last year, according to the UN report. The European Union's FDI dipped 29 percent and the US' by 57 percent.

The situation in China was a sharp contrast. Last year, FDI in China dropped less than 3 percent, and since last August it has maintained positive growth, the report said.

In June, FDI leaped to more than 39.6 percent of June 2009 levels, Xinhua reported.

"It indicates that China's [success as an] investment environment is well recognized by foreign enterprises," Zhao said. "You wouldn't pour money into a country where the environment

is worsening."

Zhao said it was understandable that there would be complaints about changes in the country's FDI strategy.

Previously, especially when the country opened up in the early 1980s, China wooed foreign investment and was in desperate need of capital, technology and management.

However, that is no longer the case with the country's enormous reserves of foreign currency, Zhao said. What the country needs is technology and management - especially those related to clean energy, sustainable development and pollution control.

"The problem China faces now is attracting the right FDI," Zhao said. The government's recent strategies for FDI focus on environmentally sustainable, energy efficient and technologically advanced industries.

Referring to complaints about the investment environment, Zhao said future improvements will depend on China's ability to be sincere in its dealings with foreign enterprises, and on the enterprises' ability to understand and respect China.

"Respecting the laws, customs and culture [of the country] should be a basic business ethic for any foreign enterprise," Zhao said.

Private airline enters world market

By Li Zhixin

Spring Airlines, a private, budget airline, launched its first international air route from Shanghai to Ibaraki, Japan last Thursday. It is the country's first private airline to operate an international route.

Ibaraki airport, zoned for military and civilian use, is 80 kilometers outside Tokyo. The new route, serviced by an Airbus A320 aircraft, is scheduled to fly every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Flights are still chartered, as the company is not approved by the Civil Aviation Administration to conduct regular international service. Packaged seats are sold by Spring Travel Service.

Current package includes a round-trip ticket from Shanghai to Ibaraki, entry passes to scenic sites and five nights in a hotel for 5,899 yuan; a package without the entry passes costs 3,899 yuan.

The airline said it will begin selling non-package tickets after it is approved to run regular international routes. Discounted fares could cost as little as 599 yuan, it said.

International service has long been regarded as the weak point of domestic airlines due to low profitability.

"Although we can't compete with major carriers that have already developed international routes connecting major cities, we can cooperate with secondary cities where landing fees are much cheaper," said Zhang Wuan, the airline's spokesman.

With the rapid development of new high-speed rails, domestic airlines are losing their competitive advantage. Like Spring Airline, the private Juneyao Airlines is looking to the air commission for approval to begin its own international flights.

The overseas travel market has been bolstered by the appreciation of the yuan, said Li Xiaojin, director of air transportation economic research at the Civil Aviation University of China.

"There are more and more Chinese people hoping to travel abroad," Li said. "China's international transportation market is growing 40 percent year on year. There is still a lot of opportunity in the international market for private airlines."

Man fined 46,000 for failure to return lost diamond ring

By Chu Meng

The Beijing Second Intermediate Court on Monday fined Zhang Peng (pseudonym) 46,000 yuan for failing to return a diamond engagement ring he found on the street.

Zhang stumbled upon the ring in a parking lot in Beijing last July. He said he threw it away thinking it was a fake.

However, the person who had lost it, Wang Shuang (pseudonym), tracked down Zhang through the police. A camera in the parking lot showed Wang had indeed lost a diamond ring in the parking lot. It also showed Zhang passing by, bending to pick up the ring and walking off with it.

Wang took Zhang to court in order to get his ring back. The court's final ruling was that Zhang did not take care of the lost property, so he should compensate Wang the price shown on the original shopping receipt.

Comment

Many doubts and uncertainties

I failed to find the ruling on the court's official website, so I do not have a detailed explanation of the proof collected by the court. However, we cannot identify Zhang cannot have been identified only by he video from the parking lot.

For the lost diamond ring, how can we gauge its price merely based on a shopping receipt? Where's the proof that the one lost was the one originally bought?

— Wang Lin, senior editor at Xi'an Evening News

Cold legal burden

The judgment not only put an unreasonable burden on the accused, but on every one of us in society. How can any of us judge the value of stuff we pass on the street on our way home? And do we have to bear the obligation of taking care of every piece of unknown property? This will generate panic.

The accused had no ability to judge the

value of the stone he found, and therefore has no obligation to take care of it. Even though he failed to produce the ring to the police, the accuser, who lost the ring in the first place, should take responsibility. Why was Zhang forced to pay the full price of the ring?

— Mao Jianguo, columnist from People's Daily

Is diamond a bomb?

It is not a diamond ring; it is a time bomb. What if this was all a scheme? Say the accuser hid the diamond ring and deliberately threw a fake ring to induce others to pick it up. Nobody can deny that such a scheme isn't possible. The camera cannot tell whether the diamond is authentic or fake.

What kind of joke is this? So if one day someone's wife runs away and I see it but don't stop her, am I supposed to compensate that person with a wife? The court's ruling has only taught us that if you do not want to be screwed, do not go pick up things on the streets.

— Liu Shuo, a 32-year-old Beijing office worker

Not necessarily the wrong judgment

Please do not ignore the obvious possibility that Zhang lied when he said he threw away the ring, instead of keeping the valuable diamond for himself.

There is precedent for the court's ruling. A property law established in 2007, which aims to protect private property, clearly stipulates that lost property should be returned to its rightful owner. Those that find misplaced articles should inform the owner or the person who lost them or hand them in to relevant authorities within 20 days of the property being found.

Zhang's conduct was not in line with the property law. Also, there is a traditional Chinese virtue of "returning money found." The law encourages these sound values and calls on society to carry on this tradition.

— Xu Mingxuan, an attorney at law



Locals in Guangzhou are worried that their dialect will be banned. Xinhua/AFP Photo

Guangzhou and Hong Kong support Cantonese

By Zhang Dongya

Hundreds of people gathered in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, over the last two weekends to protest the local government's popularizing of Mandarin while holding back Cantonese. Two hundred people also assembled in Hong Kong on Sunday to show their support.

In June, the Guangzhou municipal committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) released a survey on its website about testing local TV broadcasters in Mandarin.

Local people worried the dialect would be banned, while local media reporting the incident used provocative phrases like "Cantonese renounced."

The local committee of the CPPCC told the local Yangcheng Evening News that they wanted to increase the amount of Mandarin used on local broadcasts, not ban Cantonese. But later, a committee member suggested using Mandarin in major programs on Guangzhou TV for the sake of domestic and overseas

visitors for the Asian Games in Guangzhou this November.

Hong Kong citizens, who take Cantonese as their mother tongue, organized an assembly last Sunday to show solidarity with their Cantonese-speaking brethren in Guangdong. About 200 people gathered in Southern Playground in Wanzai Port, then marched to the Hong Kong Secretariat building. They worry that the "ban" in Guangdong might affect the dialect's survival.

According to the June survey in Guangdong, only 20 percent of respondents support the local government's suggestion.

Cantonese, which originated in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is widespread in Guangdong Province, eastern Guangxi, Hong Kong and Macau. The dialect is used in Hong Kong and Macau as the official spoken language of the government and in schools. Some on the Chinese mainland are fond of the dialect due to the popularity of Cantonese pop songs and films. Statistics show 70 million people around the world speak Cantonese.

Comment

Too influential to be banned

Most TV channels in Guangdong broadcast programs in Cantonese, including news, finance and sports. Some TV series are even dubbed in Cantonese.

There are many Hong Kong companies in Guangdong and Shenzhen, with bosses and managers all mainly using Cantonese. In big shopping malls, sellers will speak Mandarin, but people always use Cantonese in markets and small shops. Many outsiders are also enthusiastic about learning the dialect.

— Shi Xu, Guangdong native

Dialect is lively and fun

I worked in Guangdong for five years, and now I can almost understand Cantonese. I like watching local channels. Watching sports games on local TV stations is

more fun than on CCTV. The commentators speak Cantonese — their accent makes the games more fun.

I don't think the dialect deters non-locals. I did not devote time to learning Cantonese, but I can catch what people say now. And I prefer Cantonese programs since they closer reflect local customs and culture. Also, the programs have subtitles, so non-speakers can still understand.

— Newstar, a Hunan native working in Guangdong

Popularizing Mandarin is inclusive

If there were only one language in the world, we'd all save a lot of time and effort. I am Cantonese, but I don't speak much Cantonese. Popularizing Mandarin is the considerate thing to do for non-locals.

— Doll Lin, netizen on gzstuff.com

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3 TENNIS GAMES
Tennis experience, Training Camps, CCTV Series, Tennis, China Open's Angle, Tennis Fashion Day... Strong fashion show trends and provides opportunities for every tennis amateur.

4 TENNIS AND SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL
中国 My Music 5 夏日音乐节
2010.7.31-8.8
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Japan's new ambassador to China wants to deepen ties



Uichiro Niwa

Photo provided by China.com

By Chu Meng

Japan's new ambassador to China, 71-year-old Uichiro Niwa, took office in Beijing on Monday. As the first Japanese ambassador with decades of business experience in China, he made a deepening of Sino-Japanese strategic relations the first task on his agenda.

"In recent years the leaders of the two countries have created a conducive environment for the development of bilateral ties. I am very glad to see that," Niwa told Xinhua News Agency's Japan correspondent in Tokyo on July 31, the day of his departure to Beijing.

Niwa said China and Japan, as close neighbors, should cooperate as if they'll be here for the upcoming 1,000 or 2,000 years rather than the next 10 or 20. In the long run, both countries share a lot of common interests, and a stable, friendly relationship is the ultimate goal, he said.

During his first week in office, the ambassador did all he could

to give the Chinese public a good impression. "Besides working on ongoing political affairs such as the Sino-Japan Free Trade Association, his second important task at present is to take a set of photos for profile stories and prepare a speech for the Chinese public," said second secretary Xi Chun from the Japanese embassy.

Niwa, the former president of Itochu Corporation, said that he aims to boost communication, strengthen economic cooperation and build on the mutual trust between the leaders of the two countries. He also said that in the age of globalization, no one can conduct diplomacy with just one country. So relations with Korea and the US are also important.

Niwa was appointed by Prime Minister Naoto Kan in June to the key diplomatic post, making him the first ambassador to China from outside the government sector since the two countries normalized relations in 1972.

To give such a job to a non-bureaucrat is an unusual move in

Japan's rarefied diplomatic service, but it's understandable. Hu Xinxin, a researcher from the Institute of Japanese Studies in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said, "China is Japan's main trading partner and chief source of friction over territorial and historical issues. This is a sign that the Japanese government does not trust the bureaucrats. In China, Niwa will have to carefully pick his way through the challenges and opportunities that the country represents for Japanese foreign policy."

She explained that the selection of a businessman also underscores the changing relations between the two countries. Japanese exports to China, which grew 41 percent this April compared with the previous year, have represented much of Japan's shaky economic recovery. And the appointment of 71-year-old Niwa shows the Japanese government's desire to deepen economic integration between the two countries.

Aussies help promote Chinese tourism

By Han Manman

Australia hopes to be the No. 1 destination for Chinese travelers in the next few years. To promote travel, Tourism Australia launched a huge marketing campaign in Beijing this week with the tagline, "There's nothing like Australia."

As part of the campaign, more than 3,500 Australians were asked to share their favorite place or experience in Australia. The campaign uses digital, print and broadcast media to show what is unique and iconic about the country and why others should visit.

"Our research told us that Aussies want to help promote Australia to people overseas. With that in mind, our new campaign was developed to involve Australians because they are the experts on what makes Australia unlike anywhere else," said Andrew McEvoy, managing director of tourism.

He said Chinese travellers will be able to access the stories at nothinglikeaustralia.com.

According to the latest Visa PATA Travel Intention Survey, more than half of the mainland Chinese travellers surveyed said they intended to travel to Australia over the next two years, McEvoy said.

"Since gaining Approved Destination Status in 1999, the China travel market has grown dramatically for Australia to become one of the top five destinations for international travellers," he said.

The survey also revealed that the top three attributes that Chinese travellers look for in destinations overseas are natural scenery, sunshine and beaches and new places.

As part of the campaign, Tourism Australia and China Southern Airlines has also announced a new partnership.

"This fits perfectly with our strategy of continuing to build our primary markets of Guangdong, Beijing and Shanghai, but also the development of high outbound travel growth areas including the Jiangsu, Zhejiang regions and a number of secondary city markets," he said.

McEvoy added that most of Australia's Chinese visitors come from Guangdong, and that southern China accounts for 30 percent of the total number of tourists who visit Australia.

McEvoy said China Southern Airlines will begin direct flights from Guangzhou to Brisbane this November and will add more weekly flights to Sydney and Melbourne.

China is currently the fourth largest international tourists to Australia. More than 366,000 Chinese travellers set foot in Australia in 2009. In the first five months of this year, Australia has received 200,000 visitors from China, a 10 percent increase from last year.

Pakistan suffers floods, China provides urgent assistance

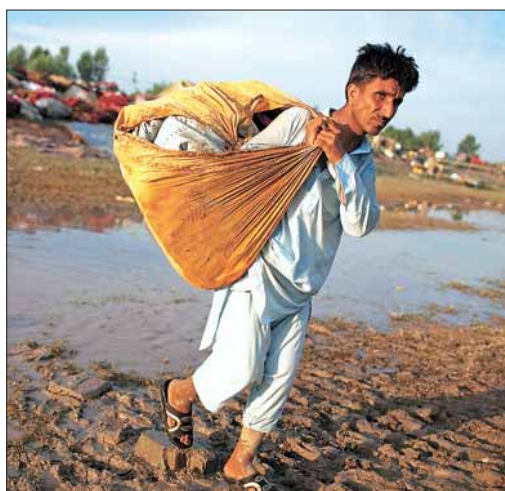
By Zhang Dongya

China provided 10 million yuan to Pakistan to help the country after flooding affected the lives of 3 million people. The first consignment of relief goods included tents, electric generators, water purification systems and medicine.

"Those were the items that Pakistan needed the most," Pakistan Ambassador to China Masood Khan said during a meeting with Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Fu Ziyang in Pakistan on Wednesday. "It is a timely gesture of the close friendship between the two countries, for which we are extremely grateful to the people and government of China."

Fu conveyed the condolences of the Chinese government and people. "The devastation and suffering in Pakistan has been felt in China," he said. "We will do whatever we can to help the Pakistani people."

Fu also thanked the Pakistani government for rescuing Chinese nationals. Last week, a Chinese



A man carries valuables salvaged from a flood that destroyed his home in Pabbi near Nowshera, Pakistan.

CFP Photo

construction company in Pakistan was flooded, affecting 265 Chinese workers. They were later

saved after rescue operations.

"Pakistan will continue to ensure the safety and security of

Chinese nationals and businesses in Pakistan," Khan said.

China's Ministry of Commerce suggested that Chinese people and companies in Pakistan closely monitor the flood and take precautionary measures to protect their property.

Flash floods have hit every province in Pakistan, with Khyber-Pakhtunkwa and Balochistan suffering the worst damage. This is reportedly the most severe flooding in Pakistan in nearly a century. The floods have killed more than 1,400 people and left more than a million homeless.

Khan said Pakistan has mobilized all its resources, including its armed forces, to provide immediate relief. Still, the challenge remains enormous as the floods head south.

Pakistan has also launched an appeal for international assistance. The ambassador said Pakistan's most urgent needs were shelter, food, medicine, water, sanitary kits, dewatering pumps and water filtration plants.

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Film Festival Programmer invites Africans to film China

By Liang Meilan

While busily selecting movies from around the world to screen at the 40-year-old Rotterdam Film Festival (IFFR), festival programmer Gertjan Zuilhof is inviting seven African filmmakers to Beijing over the next two months to produce short films about China.

Having been in China only once before and speaking nearly no Mandarin, Zuilhof said the idea came to him as a "self-inflicted shock." He wrote on this blog that the idea "more or less jumped on my back when I was not watching my back properly."

Last year's IFFR put great focus on long "silent" African films, with several projects conducted in African countries. Zuilhof's "Forget Africa" – in which he brought 12 Asian directors to make films in Africa – was one of them. "To continue enlarging the voice of African films, this year's program will be called 'Raiding Africa,'" said the 55-year-old Dutchman.

Yet the idea of such a project was inspired by another more personal experience.

"Raiding Africa is actually a follow-up of last year's project," Zuilhof said. "I was shocked by the huge numbers of Chinese people in Africa when doing Forget Africa. So the more general and thematic reason is the importance of Chinese presence in Africa in terms of investment and other aspects."

"The Africans see their lives changing because of the Chinese people. They would be interested in seeing the real lives of the Chinese people in their country in more human, social and sci-



Ssenkaaba Samson and mentor Sherman Ong film a river in fog

Photo provided by Gertjan Zuilhof

tific aspects."

Zuilhof initiated the project also as a way of helping African filmmakers hone their skills.

"They don't have enough money to go to Europe and learn very professional filmmaking approaches," he said. "But they still can do something here with less money. The way that some of the Chinese filmmakers work with less equipment and smaller crews is valuable for African filmmakers."

Six experienced Asian film directors, including Sherman Ong from Singapore and Ying Liang from China, will act as mentors.

A budget of €4,000 (36,000 yuan) raised by Zuilhof comes from IFFR, some foundations and film festivals in Sweden, Italy and South Africa. "Though these fes-

tivals offered just small amounts of money, they promised to show the films when they come out. So the movies will travel and spread," Zuilhof said.

The first African filmmaker to arrive was Ssenkaaba Samson from Uganda, an experimental filmmaker who specializes in hip-hop videos. "He has not yet set his subject. Making an impromptu film with fresh eyes is what he wants to do here," Zuilhof said. "But some of the other filmmakers are busy researching in China to make short films or documentaries."

Here in the capital, Zuilhof found a partner in Li Xiangting Film School. "Choosing Li Xiangting Film School as a collaborator was coincidental," Zuil-

hof said. "I knew some of the filmmakers in China, such as IFFR prizewinner Ying Liang, are teachers at the school. Then I proposed the school offer its venue and equipment for a workshop."

The past decade has seen numerous Chinese independent films screened at IFFR, some of which won top prizes. Zuilhof singled out two reasons why Europeans like these films.

"One is that [the filmmakers] can work quickly and make a lot of films without many problems in financing. The other thing is, European movies, even the good ones, are often quite artificial. We get the feeling that independent movies from China hit closer to real lives and to personal experiences with authentic elements," he said.

Tony Award-winning playwright talks about new play and US-China relations

By Liang Meilan

Last Saturday at Capital M restaurant, theater fans and professionals got a rare chance to interact with an award-winning playwright – David Henry Hwang – who is in China to do research for a new play.

Known for writing cross-cultural plays – including *M. Butterfly*, which won the 1988 Tony Award for Best Play – Hwang said Sino-US relations will be a big subject for him in the next arc of his work.

Hwang was accompanied at Capital M by Broadway director Leigh Silverman. The two recently concluded a two-week research trip in Guiyang, Guizhou Province, seeking inspiration for their new co-production, *Chinglish*, which will premiere at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago next June.

The two first collaborated three years ago on the play *Yellow Face*, which was about a Chinese American playwright (representing Hwang the actual playwright) who accidentally casts a Caucasian as an Asian and spends much of the play trying to justify the selection. Similarly, *Chinglish* will be another cross-cultural comedy, but this time



David Henry Hwang (right) and Leigh Silverman (left) at Capital M

it'll be about an American business man who travels to Guiyang, hoping to make an important deal before finding himself enmeshed in a system more complex than he ever imagined.

"My stay in Guiyang in relationship to the play was to get nuance, specificity and a depth of understanding that I never would by just reading a book or doing research on the Internet," Silverman said. "The smell of the air should be present in the play, so to speak. With my experience, I can go back home and tell

my designer what to do. And also, I heard Dong minority music performed by local folk artists, which gave me a fuller understanding of the music's meaning."

After reading many books about business, Hwang saw huge differences between doing business in China and in America. But it took an actual trip to China to hammer those differences home. "It requires a personal look to see the cultural differences and ideas between the old world and the new world," he said.

In Guiyang, Hwang and Silverman spoke about a variety of topics. "We talked about the fast speed of Westernization in China," Hwang said. "(The Chinese) refuse to embrace the so-called 'branded modernization' because they view it as a Western concept. China has developed its own modernity on its own terms, which is greatly reflected in doing business here."

Hwang said that as in *Yellow Face*, his new work should focus on cultural differences and similarities and cross-cultural communication. "I enjoy rewriting a play with new ideas gained from close research or sitting with audiences and hearing profound perspectives from them," he said.

Looking to the future, Hwang wants to continue tackling subjects related to US-China cultural differences and write about US-China relations. "Through the larger project, I hope to come out with a sense of what is the real dynamic at work here, as you have one country that's the old superpower and another country that is becoming the next superpower," Hwang said in an earlier interview with the *Beijinger*.

Photo by Zheng Xin

Event

Lecture: Daoism, Confucianism and Buddhism

All Chinese scholars generally agree that China and Chinese thought have been shaped by Daoism, Confucianism and Buddhism. Cultural event organizer China Culture Center is offering a lecture on them. Religion expert Paul Wang will elaborate on the three systems' beliefs and influences on Chinese culture and ideology.

Where: China Culture Center, Room 101, Kent Center, 29, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: August 5, 10 am – noon

Tel: 64312 9341

Cost: 60 yuan

Dive with sharks

SinoScuba, a professional dive operator, is offering the chance to dive with seven different shark species at the Blue Zoo Aquarium and to see rare baby sharks in a backstage tour. SinoScuba has a 100 percent safety record at Blue Zoo. Divers ages 10 and up are welcome. For more information, please see sinoscuba.com.

Where: Blue Zoo Aquarium Beijing, south gate of Workers Stadium, 1 Gongrentiyuchang Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: August 7, 1-4:30 pm

Tel: 13501163629

Cost: 650 yuan, 400 yuan for children aged 10 to 17

Photography talk

Beijing Center of Photography is holding a two-session talk free of charge. The first session will be an English-language presentation titled "Photography in Asia" by Ian Robert Knight, a Canadian photographer in Asia. The second session is a Chinese presentation of famous French photographers given by Cyprien Rusu, a foreign student at Tsinghua University.

Where: Room 0604, West Tower 14, Jianwai SOHO, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: August 7, 2-4 pm

Tel: 5869 1383

Cost: Free

A trip into the scholar's village

On the outskirts of Beijing are some beautiful ancient villages. "The scholar's village" is definitely among the best. For centuries, many famous scholars have come from that village. What is most unique about this village is that on "Autumn Day," scholars' families give free congee to the poor as a way of transferring good luck to them so that they may someday become scholars themselves.

Where: 90 Percent Travel, Building 3, Room A0526, Dacheng International Center, 78 Dongsihuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: August weekends, 8 am – 7 pm

Tel: 5962 6850

Cost: 350 yuan, 290 yuan for children under 16

(By Liang Meilan)

Aid college freshmen whose families were affected by flooding

By Annie Wei

While students were happily enjoying their summer holidays this year, a not insubstantial group of high school graduates were worrying about their future.

Due to serious droughts and floods this year, families in many provinces have suffered big losses. Some of these families' children, who tested into college earlier this year, find themselves unable to enroll due to financial difficulties.

Xuezi Yangguang, a sponsorship project established by Beijing Hope Projects in 1999, decided to help these college-bound students.

Over the past 10 years, Xuezi Yang-

guang has raised 30 million yuan and supported 9,121 poor college students from 20 provinces, cities and regions like Beijing, Heilongjiang, Xinjiang, Sichuan, Guangxi, Jiangxi and Guizhou.

Li Tianji, a journalist from *Beijing Youth Daily*, went to Du'an County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, last week to visit 10 students in need.

"Their living condition at home is really bad," Li said.

Wei Shaoyuan, 19, was one of the students Li interviewed. He lived in one of the worst wood homes in the county.

Wei's family owns a 663-square-meter corn field that normally produces 500 kilograms of corn every year. Due to serious droughts, it only produced 200 kilograms this year, which is not even enough for the family's daily needs.

Wei's house smells of mold and lacks furniture and home appliances. The most valuable thing the family owns is a 10-yuan clock, Li said.

Despite these difficulties, Wei's parents tried their best to make sure their child finished high school. This summer, Wei enrolled at Beijing Jiaotong University. However, the tuition of 7,600 yuan proved too much.

The country suffered a month of drought in April, which was followed by heavy storms. The continuous damage led to an increase in the number of students in need, said Liang Renguo, director of the local education bureau, who added that many students could not even afford their train ticket to their respective colleges.

The sponsorship project is now seeking funds from the public. There are two kinds of donations accepted. A donor can choose a student and sponsor him or her for 4,000 yuan per year; or a person can donate directly to Xuezi Yangguang.

This project hopes to help more than 100 students nationwide. *Beijing Today's* editorial staff has detailed information about each student. Anyone interested can email us at weiying@ynet.com.

Beijing Hope Project

Where: Room 225, Beijing Youth Palace, 68, Xizhimen Nan Xiaojie, Xicheng District
Open: Monday to Friday, 9 am - 5 pm
Tel: 6611 0001/0002/0299
Website: juanzhuzhongxin.cn

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiying@ynet.com

I'm in the process of quitting smoking, but the Nicorette gum I brought from my country has just run out. Is there any pharmacy in town that provides it? If not, is there a Chinese equivalent?

Nicorette gum has not yet been introduced in the Chinese market, so you can only buy it from its website, nicorette.com. There will be a high shipping charge. We recommend you try a Chinese lozenge called Niketai, which is made from herbs. The lozenge has a similar effect as Nicolette gum and you can get it from most pharmacies.

Is there a lavender manor in Beijing? I'm designing a wedding shoot for my soon-to-be married friend Laura, who really loves lavender. And I want to find a place with a large area of lavender flowers as the background for her wedding pictures.

There are a couple of lavender manors on the outskirts of the city. The most popular is the newly opened Blues Dreamland lavender manor. There are artificial settings like old railway platforms and a countryside straw pavilion in addition to large areas of lavender flowers. The manor also includes an orchard and some restaurants where the spaces are big enough for wedding receptions. Or you can try an older lavender art manor - Purple Paradise - where the flowers are more exuberant.

Blues Dreamland

Where: Louzizhuang, Jinzhanxiang Village, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6541 9967

Website: xunyicaoyuan.com

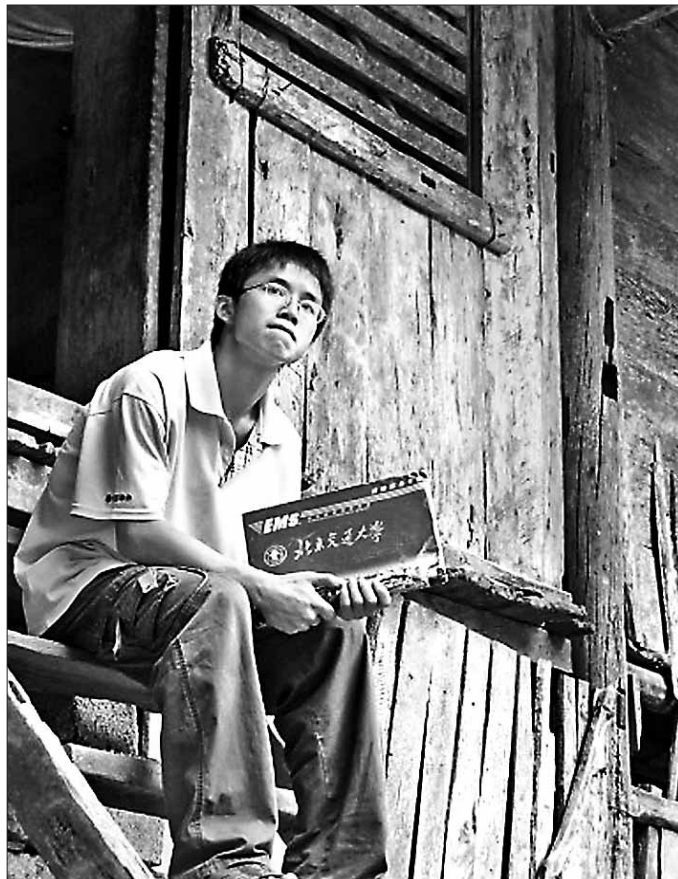
Purple Paradise

Where: Tanghe Village, Gubeikou Town, Miyun Country

Tel: 5166 6870

Web site: lovexiangcao.com

(By Liang Meilan)



Wei Shaoyuan, in front of his home in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Photo by Li Tianji

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Sound of the East

Asia the future of classical music

By He Jianwei

It is easy to find master conductors and virtuosos from Asia, but the list of top classical orchestras today is still dominated by Europe. A decade ago, Korean-American conductor Myung-Whun Chung established the first orchestra composed of musicians from all over Asia. Since its debut in Japan, the orchestra has been recognized as the continent's best. The diverse cultures and ethnicities of its performers have created a deeper harmony within the orchestra itself.

Today, Chung will lead the orchestra again on its return to Beijing's stage after last year's debut.



Han Xiaomeng (left) a top French horn virtuoso is a member in the Asia Philharmonic Orchestra.

"Musical ability and musical talent are not linked to whether you are Korean, Japanese or Chinese, or French or American. It is a language of feeling, of spirit, and no one can convince me that a Korean has a different spirit than a Japanese, Chinese or American person."



Myung-Whun Chung is famous for interpreting Korean and Austrian composers.

Chung's orchestra, the Asian Philharmonic Orchestra, includes 97 musicians from 11 Asian countries who have played with more than 30 leading symphony orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Munich Philharmonic Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic.

The group was first assembled to fulfill Chung's dream: that relations between Asian nations could be strengthened through music.

"Musical ability and musical talent are not linked to whether you are Korean, Japanese or Chinese, or French or American. It is a language of feeling, of spirit, and no one can convince me that a Korean has a different spirit than a Japanese, Chinese or American person," Chung says.

"We have different customs, and we have developed different ways of living, but basic human nature and human qualities – I don't think those change across borders," he says.

In 1995, when Chung conducted the opening ceremony of an international orchestral festival in Tokyo, he met many Asian musicians from top orchestras. His idea was to put them together.

"Classical music has crossed all borders and boundaries and convinced people all over the world of its greatness. Even though there are many conflicts and wars, only music can make the world better," he says.

The orchestra debuted to rave reviews in 1997, instantly winning recognition as one of Asia's best.

Chung says he recalls experiencing a special power when Asia's finest musicians gathered to rehearse for the first time as members of the Asia Philharmonic Orchestra.

monic Orchestra.

"Although we had only one week to rehearse, it was like magic. All of a sudden, Koreans, Japanese and Chinese musicians were all friends through the art. So music has that quality of being able to transcend boundaries to bring people closer together," he says.

The next year, the orchestra was joined by Korea's top traditional percussion quartet for the Salute to Korea concert in Tokyo's International Forum Hall and Osaka's Symphony Hall.

Born in 1953 into a musical family in Seoul, South Korea, Chung has collaborated to conduct several prestigious orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic and the Opera Bastille in Paris.

Chung is the brother of violinist Kyung-Wha Chung and cellist Myung-Wha Chung. He is the sixth child in his family. "I'm lucky to be born in this family. Before my birth, my sisters had already received a classical music education. I thought I was destined to be a musician one day," he says.

Chung began his musical career as a pianist, making his debut with the Seoul Philharmonic at the age of seven. In 1974, he won the second prize at the Tchaikovsky piano competition in Moscow.

Asia has been relatively late to embrace classical music. The art was largely unknown when he got his start in South Korea. His parents did not cultivate classical musicians intentionally, but they thought it was good for their children to receive music education.

Today it's another story.

"In Seoul alone, there are 1 million families with pianos. That happened in

only 40 years. It's a great sign. I worried that classic music is staying in Europe."

After his musical studies at Juilliard in New York, he became Carlo Maria Ciliberto, conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Having lived in Europe and the United States, Chung is a global citizen who feels no cultural boundaries.

From 1989 to 1994, Chung served as the artistic director of The Association of French Theatres in Paris.

Chung has devoted an important part of his life to the music in Asia, he launched a series of concerts in his home country in 1994.

For Chung, classical music is not just a career, it is far beyond its European roots.

"Classical music has crossed all national boundaries," he says.

Today he is looking to Asian audiences to lead classical music into the future.

"Asia could play a leading role in the amount of interest and talent I see in a new direction, and it has to continue to lead leadership from the continent."

"Classical music has crossed all borders and boundaries and convinced people all over the world of its greatness. Even though there are many conflicts and wars, only music can make the world better."

"Classical music is looking for a new direction, and it has to come from the composers. And so I hope that we will see leadership from the composers from Asia."

Myung-Whun Chung and Asia Philharmonic Orchestra Concert

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Ave., Xicheng District

When: August 6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

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European and North American groups.
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pieces by German

because in many parts of Europe people are
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ria Giulini's assistant in 1979 at the Los Angeles
o years later he was named Associate Conductor.
America for roughly 20 years each, Chung is a
ral inhibitions in performing classical music.
erved as the music director of the Paris Opera.
ters and Music Critics named him Artist of the

rtant part of his life to humanitarian and ecologi-
m to the creative energy that is driving classical
ies of musical and environmental projects in his

s a world art with a rich heritage that has grown
I'm always been asked why I want to do Western
e in the West, but it long ago overcame any

musicians – especially composers – to breathe

le in classical music judging purely on the
see here," he says. "Classical music is looking for
me from the composers. And so I hope that we
posers from Asia."

Korean-American conductor Myung-Whun Chung is looking for Asian musicians to breathe new life into classical music.

Photos provided by the National Center for the Performing Arts

1.

The PM's wife who Britain could not hold down



Speaking for Myself
By Cherie Blair, 420pp,
Little Brown, 110 yuan

By Chu Meng

The women behind male world leaders are a timeless topics of public curiosity.

Cherie Blair, wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the first British first lady to hold her own career, was no exception. Ongoing fascination with her life has helped drive sales of her memoir *Speaking for Myself*, published in May 2008 on the anniversary of the couple's departure from 10 Downing Street.

Last Wednesday evening at the Bookworm, Blair spoke about the book, her career and efforts to aid women around the world. She and her family were in China on a sightseeing tour to the Shanghai Expo.

Known professionally as Cherie Booth Queen's Council, Blair, 56, is a British barrister working in England and Wales and the mother of three sons and a daughter. She grew up in a single-parent family and graduated at the top of her class in law school.

In 1976, while studying to become a barrister, she met future prime minister and husband Tony Blair, whom she wed four years later.

But neither marriage nor the move to 10 Downing Street could shake her from her career.

"I felt most of the controversy about me in the British media was due to my pioneering role as the first wife of a British Prime Minister who had her own career, with the media simply not knowing how to treat me fairly and objectively," she said at the book talk.

Her 500 pages of lively and funny stories take the reader from a working-class childhood in Liverpool to the heart of the British legal system and her marriage to the prime minister. It was an astonishing journey for a woman whose unconventional childhood was full of drama, and who grew up with a fierce sense of justice.

In her autobiography she speaks about com-

bing her roles in life as a working mother.

As a barrister, Blair has long advocated women's rights in the workplace. "I shared my own lessons and understandings that were got out of personal experiences to focus on discussions mainly on the challenges women face breaking into traditionally male-centric fields like law," she said.

As an example, she mentioned Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first female president of an African nation. "It is women like these that are eliminating stereotypes about what women can or cannot do," Blair said.

However, as a wife to a prime minister, she also complained about being a behind-the-scenes woman. In her autobiography she referred to herself as "the prisoner" of Downing Street during times of extreme isolation.

In the early days of her husband's career, the two had a strong partnership. That dynamic changed when he became prime minister, and she was forced to accept that she would never know what was going on, and that Alastair Campbell – a previous political rival – would decide what she could and could not do.

"I had gone through a miscarriage, felt financially insecure and was generally feeling sorry for myself. I was so pre-occupied with my own woes that I did not give much thought to the looming conflict in Iraq," she said, describing her worst days.

But her narrative shines again as she talks about the places she visited and people she met. Her descriptions of official visits to China, Pakistan and Rwanda are fascinating, as are her observations about world players like the Clintons, George W. Bush, Vladimir Putin, the Royal Family and the theatrical Silvio Berlusconi.

"Never praise a woman, because it will only spoil her," she said, grinning as she quoted something Putin once told her.



Photo provided by Bookworm

Japanese student writes on the changing of China

By He Jianwei

Although Sino-Japanese relations warm and thaw with all the predictability of the stock market, many Chinese readers have been overwhelmingly positive about one young Japanese columnist's commentary on the countries' relations.

Yoshikazu Kato, 26, has made a name for himself as a critic of Sino-Japanese relations in the Chinese media with his column on FTChinese.com and appearances on CCTV and Phoenix TV.

Last month he published a new book, *How Far Is It Between Izu and Beijing*, a memoir about his childhood experiences and how he became a critic from a penniless student.

Born in 1984 to a poor family in Izu, Japan, Kato took work as a paperboy at age 13 to support his family. For six years he rose at 3 am every day, sleeping six or less hours per night.

"People who sleep too much will be lazy," his father said.

Kato did not complain. As his family's oldest son, he believed it was up to himself to shoulder responsibility when times turned hard. "I made money and learned more about society. I also learned how to arrange my life and make use of my free time to study," Kato said.

In 2003, partly motivated by a desire to save his family money, he came to Beijing to study international relations at Peking University.

Kato became president of the school's Japanese association and established the Jing Forum, then the first high-profile student-initiated exchange between Peking University and the University of Tokyo.

"Since I arrived in China seven years ago, I've been searching for the best way to deal with the enormous, unpredictable, rising 'Chinese dragon.'"



How Far Is It Between Izu and Beijing

By Yoshikazu Kato, 217pp,
Jiangsu Literature and Art
Publishing House, 25 yuan

Although I haven't found the answer, one thing I am sure of is that as a foreigner I need to maintain some distance," he said.

"Keeping a moderate distance – being neither too near nor too far – is the only way to understand China, and the only way to approach it truthfully and objectively," he said, shunning the binary logic that separates commentators into panda huggers and dragon slayers.

Unlike other foreign students who chose simply to observe the changes taking place in China, Kato was not content to be an onlooker and decided to write. His articles observe the twisting Sino-Japanese relations from an international view rather than a Japanese one.

"Communication at both the official and real levels, together with a way to handle crises, would help foster a healthy relationship between the two countries," he said.

CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends these new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

The Story of Art

By E. H. Gombrich, 688pp,
Phaidon, 299 yuan

Renowned not only as the most concise introduction to art history but also as a classic of art historical literature, this book reflects the vast knowledge, insights and expertise of one of the 20th century's greatest art historians and thinkers. Extensively illustrated, it treats the history of art – both chronologically and geographically – as a continuous unfolding story.

Michael Jackson: Number Ones

By Michael Jackson, 127pp,
Alfred Publishing Company, 209 yuan

Michael Jackson's album,

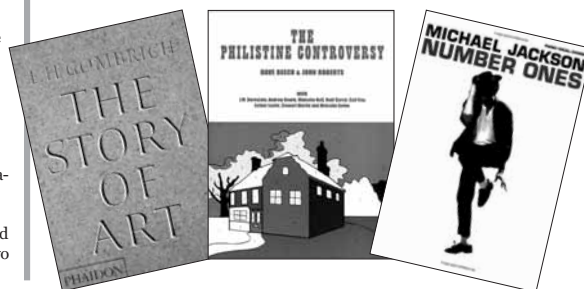
Number Ones, features a new single, "One More Chance." There are 17 more songs on the album and they are among Jackson's top hits. Alfred Music Publishing presents this greatest hits matching songbook that features stunning full-color photos of Michael and piano, vocal and guitar arrangements of all 18 songs.

The Philistine Controversy

By Dave Beech and John Roberts, 288pp, Verso, 99 yuan

Conventionally, the philistine is assumed to have no appreciation of art and culture. But in this fascinating re-evaluation of its excluded identity, Dave Beech and John Roberts address the philistine not as an empirical phenomenon but as a relational category that operates between art and anti-art, aesthetics and anti-aesthetics, arguing that the philistine cuts to the core of art in a divided culture.

(By He Jianwei)



Succulents an easy plant to beautify the home

By Wang Yu

A cozy apartment is made all the better by clean air.

But not everyone has time or the skills required to take care of plants, especially flowers, which often come with strict temperature, water and humidity requirements. That's why young people who are out of the house most of the day prefer to buy succulents.

These plants are easy to find in online stores and are often grown by professional dealers. A new plant in a small flowerpot can beautify the room and serve as a silent flatmate.

Zhu Zhaofeng, a local bank employee, relocated to a new apartment in January. The one-bedroom flat has a larger living room with a big window that faces north. Zhu has been thinking about adding some green to the room to go with the simple furniture.

But as a novice horticulturist who spends most of his day at work, flowers are not an option.

"My grandma plants flowers on her balcony. They are beautiful, but they take a lot of time to care for. I just want to see some green in the living room but don't want IKEA plants – they are too ordinary," Zhu says.

Last month he found photos of leafless succulent plants online. He was immediately attracted to their bizarre shapes. Unlike flowers, new succulent plants can be grown in small pots that are well-suited to apartments without balconies.

Zhu bought a *fenestraria*, also called babies' toes or window plant. Each leaf has a semi-crystalline transparent window-like area at the top.

In the wild, the South African plant grows mostly buried in sand. It is well adapted to surviving low temperatures and little sunshine. Because of this summer's extreme heat, Zhu has to keep the plant in the corner and use an air conditioner to maintain the right temperature and humidity.

"At first I thought having a plant like this would help me save time, but I'm still having to learn the basics of gardening. But it's fun, and I love to see them grow," Zhu says.

Chinese fans usually call succulent plants "meat" plants because of their classification's Chinese name, *duo rou*. Many growers looking to share photos of their plants turn to the gardening sections on social networking sites.

Feng Tao, a 26-year-old teacher in Chengdu, posts his plants' progress on Douban.com. Two years ago he started to plant succulents after he saw photos of lithops, popularly known as living stones, on a blog.

"At first I thought it was really weird, but my curiosity made me bring one home. I learned on Huatan.net, a popular gardening site, that the plants are very easy to care for," Feng says.

Feng usually mixes several types of plants in each pot based on similar habitats.

Feng says that among all the succulent plants, lithops are one of the best plants for beginners. The plant has a bizarre, intriguing appearance, and is generally hardy. Many similar succulents are popular for horticulture.

"All of my plants were bought on Taobao and delivered without pots. The price was good and some dealers actually grow the plants by themselves. Usually you have to transplant them to new pots as there can be worms and harmful bacteria carried back from the greenhouse. Prepare new soil and plant them carefully," Feng says.

Succulent plants do not need much water. However, they do need a change of soil each year. In summer, most of the plants are dormant because of the heat.

"Crassulaceae plants are my favorite because they are beautiful and strong enough to grow. I like to talk with them because I think it is necessary. They don't talk, but they are also living like us. I think maybe they understand what I'm talking about because they grow better after listening to my words," Feng says.

Feng also cultivate sweet grass and flowers. He hopes that one day his balcony can become a small garden.



Sempervivum arachnoideum



Haworthia



Sedum anglicum



Fenestraria

Photos by Lonely Mei

Tips for succulent plants

Succulent plants grow just as well potted as they do in wild soil.

The variety of groundcovers, perennials and larger tree-type plants offers gardeners a wealth of options

Shape, texture and color can vary in each specimen, often resulting in some wildly different plants.

Preparing the soil is the first step for gardeners. Use a well-drained, sandy loam. If your soil is already rich in clay, try to mix in some dolomite to break it up. It can also be mixed with river sand, which succulent plants tend to love.

No compost needs to be added to the soil, and fertilizers should be kept to a minimum. Potting mix must be free-draining if you want to grow the plants in containers instead of directly in the soil.

Most succulent plants are sun-lovers. Planters should remove any large trees or other obstructions to help the plants meet their sunlight requirements. Though some

survive in partial shade, very few can thrive in full-shade.

Succulents are not easily pruned. Make sure to plant them farther apart than you would plant equivalent perennials.

Remember to remove dead flowers, leaves and shoots. Leaving them attached increases the risk of plant diseases associated with decomposition in the main trunk.

Prune the succulents to remove anything that looks weak. Deadheading is another way to maintain the healthy plants.

Dust your plants using a hairdryer on a light speed. Dust can settle between the spines and that makes it very difficult to keep the plants dust free. Using a blow-dryer can simulate natural wind and keep the plants healthy.

Brackish (water with a high sodium or sodium carbonate content) or hard water will leave a residue of mineral salts that could build up and become detrimental to the plants. Flush the plants with fresh water regularly.



Shop for the last month of summer

By Annie Wei

And just like that, as the calendar turns to August, the weather changes: gone are the unbearable humidity and heat – a sign that the summer of 2010 is on its last legs.

It's the last hurrah for several groups of people. For pool party fans, now's the last chance to break out those bikinis and get a tan. For girls who care about their skin, it's time to update your cosmetic products for more moisture and nutrients. For accessories collectors, it's the last month to snatch up jewelry pieces to match the hot summer days, which will soon turn to cool autumn nights.



Felt-cut necklace, 200 yuan

Outdoor pool accessories



Bling-bling basket, 50 yuan; candy-colored Abercrombie & Fitch sandals, 39 yuan; swimming suits, 90 yuan

This sequined basket is shining and big. It fits in several occasions – at the morning vegetable market, pool party and picnic, to name a few.

A pair of Havana, Roxy or Crocs sandals start at 200 yuan; decent bikini or swimsuit starts at 250 yuan from most retail stores. You can find these items – and others – for cheaper at taobao.com.



Thermo rest mat, 359 yuan

The foldable yellow-gray mat is light and practical for outdoor activities in both summer and winter. It's soft and comfortable to lie on. Place it close to a pool or beachside and it doesn't get wet like a towel might. If you go hiking on the Great Wall this winter, place it under your sleeping bag and it can block the cold and moisture from seeping in. Available from taobao.com

Photos by Tao Ran



Bird-cage ring, 250 yuan



DIY ring made of Chanel button

DIY jewelry

If you have interest in making your own jewelry, the fourth floor at Yashow market is a good place to start. You do not need any skills; just a keen eye and good imagination.



DIY necklace made of green crystals sold from Yashow market
Photos by Yu Tingmei

Go through the stones, pearls and pendants and ask the vendor to make it into a necklace, bracelet or ring. For example, a bracelet with five pendants – copied from big international brands – costs less than 100 yuan (15 yuan per pendant in the shape of lipsticks, cars, women, hearts or handbags).

You can also find good items from a jewelry boutique at Nali Mall on Sanlitun Bei Jie, which offers many collections from inexpensive to more precious stones. Compared to Yashow's products, these items are better and more meticulously made.

Yashow jewelry market

Where: 4/F, Yashow, 58 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 9 pm
Tel: 6415 1726

Skin care

After you turn 30, you'll quickly realize that exposing your skin to the sun between the hours of 2 and 4 pm will not only burn the skin but possibly destroy the its collagens forever. What's worse, your skin loses so much water that wrinkles become clear the next morning. But going to the outdoor pool party and getting a tan are like announcements that "I am young and I can still party hard!" The trick is to not pay for it with skin problems in the future.



(from left to right): Hawaiian Tropic after-sun cooling gel (109 yuan); Bulgaria rosewater (78 yuan); Hawaiian Tropic Golden tanning dry oil (109 yuan); Waterbabies' SFP 50 lotion spray, 99 yuan (apply every hour when you are at an outdoor pool); Banana Boats' lotion for sunburned skin, 55 yuan and Waterbabies' sun block for face, 35 yuan. Available from taobao.com

Photo by Tao Ran



Normally we find our hair dry and damaged in the fall due to weather changes and exposure to the sun and chlorine from swimming pools. Prepare yourself by giving it some extra nutrients. The Kiehl's silk groom serum (220 yuan for 75 ml), with vitamin E and sesame seed oil, can give your hair a glossy and smooth look.

Where: Kiehl's counter, 1/F, Shin Kong Plaza, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6530 5888

Photo by Li Yiliang

South American restaurant opens door at Sanlitun South

By Annie Wei

When talking about South American restaurants, most locals think of Mexican establishments or Brazilian steakhouses. But for South American fine dining, *Beijing Today* recommends the newly opened Terra along with some Chilean food recipes courtesy of Chile's embassy.

Terra's recent grand opening

With its opening party two weeks ago, Terra is officially open for business in Sanlitun. It occupies the two-story building formerly held by Rickshaw Bar, which closed over the winter.

Distinguished food items include ceviches – citrus-marinated seafood like prawns, octopus and halibut – tiraditos, cold dish similar to the ceviche and causas, a different kind of South American salad. There are also eight kinds of ceviches with clams, tuna, mushroom and salmon (58 to 78 yuan for small and 98 to 128 yuan for large). We ordered a classic ceviche (128 yuan), which was prepared with tender halibut, red onion, lemon juice, cilantro, chilis, corn and a sweet potato chip.

The restaurant also offers ceviche tasting, with ceviche juices (leches de tigre) served with Grey Goose vodka.

There are three kinds of tiraditos (all 88 yuan) and four causas (68 yuan to 118 yuan).

We ordered fava beans salad (68 yuan), which comes with fava beans, diced tomatoes, diced mozzarella and roasted corn with criolla vinaigrette, served in a crispy tortilla basket garnished with yellow pepper. We particularly liked two hot dishes: Peruvian style shrimp soup (98 yuan) and spring rolls (88 yuan).

The soup was very tasty, with distinctive layers of flavors: prawn, rice, creamy green peas puree, cilantro and quail egg. The spring rolls came in six pieces, with braised duck, yellow pepper, guacamole and rococo as various fillings. The rolls were served warm and perfectly crisped on the outside while soft on the inside.

We also ordered octopus skewers (108 yuan) with basil mash potatoes, chimichurri sauce and leeks capellini; and duck breast and leg (158 yuan) as the main dish, with braised leg, grilled breast and rice.

The chocolate soufflé with ice cream (68 yuan) made a great ending to the meal, accompanied by a bottle of sparkling wine (288 yuan), two glasses of house wine (38 yuan each) and fresh juice (33 yuan). Our dinner for five cost 1,110 yuan.

Terra owner Gaby Alves, who also owns Salt in the Lido area, has gained a good reputation in the expat community over the years – a reputation sure to increase once word of her new



Classic ceviche, 128 yuan



Octopus skewers, 108 yuan



Duck breast and leg, 158 yuan



Chocolate soufflé with ice cream, 68 yuan

Photos by Yu Sen-lun/ Ding Chunhan

restaurant starts to spread.

Terra

Where: 1, East side of north entrance of

Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: Tuesday to Sunday, 11 am –

1 am next day

Tel: 6591 9148



Marine salad

Chilean dishes recommended by the Chilean embassy

Salad – marine mixture

Vinegar
Salt
2 bay leaves
4 black pepper corns
250 grams of shrimps, shelled and veined
250 grams of squid, peeled and in rings
150 grams of scallops, shelled
12 mussels, cleaned
12 clams, brushed
60 grams of black olives, in slices
60 grams of green olives, in slices
1 canned red bell pepper, in julienne strips
1/2 cup lemon juice
1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 teaspoons powder mustard
1/4 teaspoon ground Cayenne pepper

1. In a saucepan, combine 6 cups of cold water, 2 tablespoons of vinegar, 1 teaspoon of salt, 1 bay leaf and pepper corns. Bring to a boil over moderate heat and add the shrimp. Cook for 1-2 minutes or until the shrimp are pink; then remove them with a slotted spoon and set aside the bowl. Cook the squid for 1 minute in the same water, remove and set aside with the shrimp. Cook the scallops for 1 minute, remove, drain and quarter. Add them to the bowl and let cool.

2. In a large frying pan, place the mussels and clams, cover and cook over a high heat until their shells open.

Remove from shells and add to the bowl. Let cool.

3. On a serving platter, arrange the seafood, olives, bell pepper and remaining bay leaf; set aside. In a bowl, mix the lemon juice, oil, 3 teaspoons of vinegar, mustard, Cayenne pepper and 1 teaspoon of salt; pour over the seafood and let stand for 4-5 hours. Remove the bay leaf before serving.

Dessert – citrus fruit compote

Prepare
1/2 cup orange juice
1/2 cup mandarin orange juice
1/2 cup grapefruit juice
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 cup sugar
1 pinch of ground clove
1 pinch ground cardamom
1 pinch ground cinnamon
5 oranges, peeled, with the pith removed and in segments
1 pink grapefruit, peeled, with the pith removed and in segments
2 mandarin oranges, peeled, with the pith removed and in segments
1 lemon, peeled, with the pith removed and in segments
1. Put the fruit juices with the sugar, clove, cardamom and cinnamon in a saucepan and cook over medium heat. Stir until the sugar dissolves. Add fruit segments and cook another 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow it to cool.
2. Once cold, place the fruit in a bowl and refrigerate until serving time.



Citrus fruit compote

Photos provided by Flavors of Chile

Other South American-style restaurants in town

Alameda – modern Brazilian cuisine

Where: Inside Nali Mall, Sanlitun Bei Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: Monday to Friday, noon – 3 pm, 6 pm – midnight; Saturday and Sunday, noon to midnight

Tel: 6417 8084

Obelisco – Argentinean grill

Where: 1 Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 3 pm; 5-9 pm

Tel: 8470 1666

Fusion of art and fashion



Photo provided by Tokyo Gallery + BTAP

By He Jianwei

When Japanese artist Go Yayanagi met fashion designer Junko Koshino at Yayanagi's solo exhibition at Tokyo Gallery + BTAP in Beijing last year, they decided to collaborate on work that would transform Yayanagi's print works from the 1970s into three-dimensional textile designs.

By incorporating patterns taken from Yayanagi's prints into her clothing designs, Koshino has been displaying innovative and creative works this past year at fashion shows and events, including "Junko Koshino Collection: A Moment" in Tokyo and "Junko Koshino Beijing Fashion Show 25th Anniversary" in Beijing.

This Sunday, Koshino and Yayanagi will present their joint work at an exhibition titled "Genre Crossing," which will showcase pieces from Koshino's collection along with some of Yayanagi's original paintings and prints.

Born in Obihiro, Hokkaido, in 1933, Yayanagi is famous for his prints. After graduating from Obihiro Agricultural High School in 1951, he traveled to Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1957, where he held a solo exhibition of his work at the city's Museum of Modern Art.

In 1965, he moved to Paris and studied copperplate printmaking for

three years under master printer Stanley William Hayter at his Atelier 17.

Koshino, born in Osaka in 1939, became the youngest recipient of the So-en prize, a prestigious award for emerging designers, when she won at the age of 19. After her first show at Paris Fashion Week in 1978, Koshino quickly became a designing pioneer.

She has maintained close relations with China through the years. She staged China's largest fashion show at Beijing Hotel in 1985, a sports and fashion show at Workers Indoor Arena in 1988 and an exhibition at the Museum of Chinese History in 1992.

This collaboration between the realms of art and fashion, usually considered separate disciplines, represents a new, innovative direction in the careers of these two accomplished creators.

Genre Crossing

Where: Tokyo Gallery + BTAP, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: August 9 - September 9, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3245

5 Friday, August 6

Exhibition Golden Sky - Yu Hong's Solo Exhibition

Featuring a stunning quartet of five-by-six meter paintings displayed on the ceiling in the manner of classical frescoers, this exhibition changes the way people view Yu Hong's work.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 15, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: 15 yuan

Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife Bemused

This London-based band comprises students from the Lamont School of Music and released its first album, *Departed Ones*, last year.

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5900 0969

Movie

Changeling (2008)

Single parent Christine Collins is a supervisor at the local telephone exchange who, having returned home late after working overtime on a Saturday, finds her nine-year-old son Walter missing from their home. As the days go by, the Collins case becomes the object of a campaign by Pastor Gustav Briegleb, who rails against the incompetence and corruption of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 8229 6153



6 Saturday, August 7

Exhibition Lights of August - Solo Exhibition of Soledad Sevilla

This exhibition shows Spanish artist Sevilla's latest series of paintings and three pieces of installations created from 1998 to 2004.

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 12, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9530

Movie

Walk the Line (2005)

Johnny Cash, born and raised in Arkansas, bought a guitar while serving in the Air Force in Germany, a move that would change his life. After the war, he cut an album in Memphis, Tennessee, and saw his reputation steadily grow out of radio and live performances. Eventually he became a star.

However, while touring with the likes of Jerry Lee Lewis, a drug addiction nearly ruined his life. This bio-pic tells of Cash's rise, fall and eventual redemption as a born-again Christian, thanks to the tireless efforts of his would-be wife, June Carter.

Where: Lady Book Saloon, 69 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6270 1928

Nightlife

The Verse

This local jazz and funk band performs songs in Chinese and English.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711



7 Sunday, August 8

Exhibition Big Blackboard

Austrian artist Karl-Heinz Klopff creates a large-scale blackboard displaying an evolving script. On the blackboard are the artist's encounters with colleagues, architects and writers, as well as his experiences in the city, diagrammatically depicted in chalk.

Where: CU Space, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 3, daily except Monday, 11 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9576

Movie



Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991) and Castle in the Sky (1986)

After cyborgs failed to kill Sarah Connor, James Cameron's film tells the story of an advanced model of cyborg going after Connor's teenage son, John Connor. The second film, Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki's *Laputa*, is a movie about a young boy and a girl with a magic crystal who must race against pirates and foreign agents in the search for a legendary floating castle.

Where: Crystal Club Coffee & Bar, 2/F Building 12, Wanda

Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 2:30 pm

Admission: 20 yuan for members, 30 yuan for non-members

Tel: 5960 3177

Nightlife

I'm Happy to be Alone

This musical is an adaptation of a novel depicting the loneliness of urban people.

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-380 yuan

Tel: 400 610 3721

Upcoming

Nightlife

Natti Vogel

After winning New School University's Battle of the Bands, Vogel recorded his first album, which quickly became an international cult sensation.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: August 12, 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 80 yuan at the door

Tel: 6404 2711

Stage in September

Concert

London Symphony Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, 14

Dongzhimen Nan Dajie,

Dongcheng District

When: September 12, 7:30 pm

Admission: 200-2,010 yuan

Tel: 6551 8058

Pictures at an Exhibition - Xu Mu's Piano Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: September 23, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra

Concert

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: September 24, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-380 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Joanie Madden and Cherish the Ladies

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: September 29-30,

7:30 pm

Admission: 180-880 yuan

Tel: 400 610 3721

Drama

Du Lala

Where: Poly Theater, 14

Dongzhimen Nan Dajie,

Dongcheng District

When: September 1-5, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-680 yuan

Tel: 6551 8058

Romeo and Zhu Yingtai

Where: Haidian Theater, 28

Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District

When: September 3-4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-480 yuan

Tel: 6405 4842

The Poison

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: September 10-11, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-150 yuan

Tel: 6275 8452

I Love Peach Blossom

Where: Peking University Hall,

5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: September 14-15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-180 yuan

Tel: 6275 8452

Red Rose and White Rose

Where: Multi-Purpose Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 14-23, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Breathe easier, even with allergic rhinitis

By Han Manman

Allergic rhinitis is a seasonal woe for many, but for others it's a year-round hassle. The condition has been linked to asthma, sinusitis and other more serious problems.

If you are one of the unlucky people with allergies, it is essential that you learn to cope with the problem by avoiding exposure to any triggers.

Chinese doctors say summer is the best season to begin dealing with the problem.

How to self-diagnose

Allergic rhinitis is easily confused with the common cold, but there are a few ways to differentiate the two, said Feng Wenfeng, director of the ear, nose and throat department at Beijing Tianan Chinese Medicine Hospital.

Allergic rhinitis can last for more than eight to 10 days, whereas a common cold will end within a week, he said.

"If every spring and summer your nose runs, your

eyes itch and water and you sneeze all day, you probably have allergic rhinitis, also called hay fever," Feng said.

She said the classic symptoms include sneezing, nasal itch and congestion, along with thin, watery nasal discharge.

A sore throat may also be present due to a combination of post-nasal drip and excessive mouth breathing necessitated by nasal obstruction.

Eyes are sometimes involved and can itch, sting and tear.

Itching on the roof of the mouth and in the ears, ears that feel clogged, mild dizziness, headache and general exhaustion may accompany other symptoms.

Children with allergic rhinitis may sniff and snort in an effort to breathe freely. To relieve nasal itching, they may push up the tip of the nose with the back of the hand.

Causes of allergic rhinitis

Allergic rhinitis can be chronic, episodic or seasonal.

In its episodic form, symptoms occur when a person is exposed to the allergenic substance only intermittently. Conditions that are brought on by contact with a friend's pet is a

good example.

With perennial rhinitis, the symptoms are present year-round due to something in the home or in the diet. Symptoms are typically worse at night and upon arising in the morning. Perennial rhinitis may produce

chronic symptoms that, at first, may not seem allergic. Sinus headache, loss of smell and taste, lack of energy and misalignment of the teeth are common symptoms.

Most perennial allergies are caused by dust mites that live

in bedclothes, carpet and upholstered furniture. Pets are another significant cause. The worst offenders are cats and dogs, but small rodents, rabbits and birds may also be troublesome. Indoor mold spores, mildew and foods are less frequent causes of

chronic symptoms.

Seasonal allergic rhinitis is due to an allergy to pollens or outdoor mold spores. Some of the plants that usually produce offending pollens are deciduous and evergreen trees, flowering plants and grasses.

Summer best for treatment

Feng said the best time to seek allergic rhinitis treatment is during the summer.

"Traditional Chinese medicine has a saying: 'winter diseases are best cured in summer,'" Feng said, adding that allergic rhinitis is classified as a winter disease.

Feng said that despite the symptoms appearing in spring and summer, the condition is classified as a winter ailment because most allergic rhinitis patients have a weak and cold constitution. She said these patients hate cold weather and are sensitive to sudden changes in temperature.

Traditional Chinese medical theory says the body's energy channels are more open in the summer, and the immune system is easier to support during this time.

Feng said that before visiting a doctor for allergic rhinitis treatment, it is important to know when the symptoms

appear and disappear. Knowing these dates will give doctors or allergists vital clues as to what is provoking the symptoms.

Based on where you live and work and when you suffer the most, a doctor or an allergist can narrow down the list of possible causes. Your doctor or allergist may suggest an allergy test.

There are mainly two ways to do an allergy test. One is a skin test, in which small amounts of suspected allergens are introduced into the skin. Skin-testing is the easiest, most sensitive and generally least expensive way of making the diagnosis. The other way is a blood test for allergens.

"Even if you take the test and learn the cause, you still will not be able to cure your allergic rhinitis," said Zhang Ruihua, an ear, nose and throat doctor at Beijing Chao-Yang Hospital.

"What you can do is avoid your triggers," Zhang said.

Zhang said treatments and medications available or pre-

scribed for allergic rhinitis only reduce inflammation in the infected or affected tissues.

She said the best treatment is prevention, though several medications might help.

Antihistamines are usually sold over-the-counter, Zhang said. Such medicines are only recommended to relieve mild symptoms or moderate symptoms. Many antihistamines may cause drowsiness and should not be taken when driving.

Nasal sprays are the most common form of medication taken for allergic rhinitis. They are safe and effective, especially for patients whose symptoms are not alleviated by antihistamines.

Decongestants often used for coughs can also be used to treat allergic rhinitis.

Seek a doctor's recommendation and prescription even if some medicines are non-prescription to ensure health and safety, Zhang said.

Avoiding triggers

For allergic rhinitis patients, prevention is better than treatment. By adopting better habits you can drastically reduce how often your nose makes you suffer.

For seasonal rhinitis:

1. Limit your outdoor activities when the pollen count is high. If you have to do yard work during pollen season, wear a mask. Shower, wash your hair and change your clothes afterwards.
2. Keep your windows and doors closed as much as possible during pollen season. Use air conditioners instead of fans, which bring in outside air.
3. Drive with your windows and vents closed and your air conditioner on.

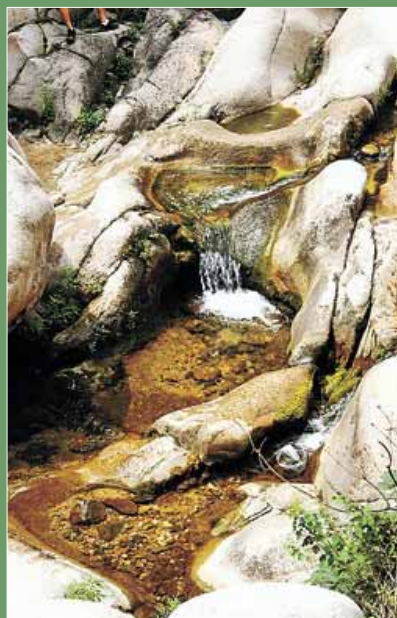
For year-round allergic rhinitis:

1. If you have a dog or cat that triggers symptoms, have it bathed weekly and do your best to keep it off furniture and out of the bedroom.
2. Put pillows, box springs and mattresses in sealed plastic covers to keep out dust mites. Wash bedding in hot water to kill any dust mites.
3. Remove carpet from your bedroom.
4. Use a dehumidifier to keep relative humidity below 40 percent.



CFP Photo

Trekking through hills and water in Shuiquan Canyon



Shuiquan Canyon is a rare place in Beijing where hikers can find water and hills along the way.



Photos by Lu Gang

By Zhang Dongya

Beijing isn't situated next to the coast or any big rivers or lakes, but Shuiquan Canyon is a rare place here where one finds water coursing in harmony with the surrounding hills and valleys.

There is an easy hiking trail here that provides a view of the "Waterside Great Wall" – a stretch of the Great Wall that's abutted by rivers and streams.

Hiking along with water

Shuiquangou, or Spring Canyon, is located in Yanqing County in northwest Beijing. A hike from Shuiquan Canyon to Xiangtun Village, going through Huanghua Great Wall and Dayun Canyon, is a great way to spend a summer day.

"It is very suitable for summer hiking. The mountain's cool, and there's lots of water," said Yinliute, a team leader in charge of the route for luye.info, the biggest Internet hub for local travel. In the last two months, he has organized four trips to Shuiquan Canyon, each with about 100 people.

"It is also suitable for new hikers; the course is pretty easy," he said.

There isn't much of a road in the canyon, so hikers need to climb over rocks and cross streams and brooks. In some places, locals have attached wooden handrails to the cliffs to aid hikers. People can wade across the river in its shallows.

Some parts of the trail have wooden bridges. At places without bridges and where the river is relatively deep, locals provide small wooden boats that seat four to six people (5 yuan per person). There are two or three places that are hard to get across, so hikers should exercise caution. The water is only neck-deep though, so it doesn't pose life-threatening danger.

In the caves, water flowing from the rocks is cool and clean. Some hikers believe the mountain water is natural and refreshing and will take a drink. Wild fruits can also be seen along the way.

Campers can take time to play in the water, which is not very deep this year due to a lack of rain.

Waterside Great Wall

The bottom of the canyon has grand sights on both sides. The mountain is covered densely with luxuriant trees.

Along the road, visitors will see broken sections of the Great Wall stretching from steep ridges. This is the Huanghuacheng Waterside Great Wall.

This part of the Great Wall, built in 1404 during the reign of Yongle in Ming Dynasty (1638-1644), once served as the northern gate to the capital city. At one point it was the best part of the Ming Great Wall.

Continued on page 21...



People can wade across the rivers, which are not deep along the trek.



Shuiquan Canyon is popular among summer hikers, especially novice hikers.

Photo by Li Xin



Huanghuacheng Waterside Great Wall was once the best part of the Ming Great Wall. It is also famous for the parts that are submerged under water.

CFP Photo



Locals provide small boats in places where the river is relatively deep.
Photo by 99cat



There are two or three places that are hard to get across, so people should exercise caution.

... continued from page 20

Since then, some sections in the lower canyon have been submerged and look like shadows of higher walls. There are three places where the Great Wall goes in and out of the water – it's a view you cannot get elsewhere.

Some sections are well preserved; others are broken and haven't been restored. There are 13 beacon towers along this part of the Wall.

Because of hot weather and thick trees, summertime hikers usually brisk by. Those interested in climbing up the Wall will find the going tough, but once you get close to the towers a gust of wind will cool you off.

Admission to the Huanghuacheng Waterside Great Wall Reserve is 35 yuan. Visitors passing through pay 10 yuan.

This part of the Great Wall is a good place to visit during the winter, when there are fewer people.

Small ancient village

The hike's terminus is Xiangtun Village, a small mountain village first built in 1623 during the Ming Dynasty. At one time there was a temple at the mountain's peak, which drew many people who burnt incense there, thus giving the village its name – *xiangtun* means "waterside vil-

lage with incense."

According to recent statistics, the village has 24 households with 66 villagers who live in stone and brick cottages. Some thatched cottages at the entrance of the village are used as teahouses and restaurants that receive guests.

The Great Wall stretches behind the village, providing visitors a view of several beacon towers.

A wiggling macadam road, clean and rustic, has been paved through the village. Along the way there is an ancient well, which is said to have a century of history.

Chestnuts are bountiful in the village. A chestnut garden that dates back to the Ming has more than 1,000 chestnut trees in it, many of which are more than 300 years old. The garden produces big profits for locals and is a popular destination for tourists. Visitors can view chestnuts blossoming in May and June and pick chestnuts in autumn.

In recent years, the village has developed folk dishes using wild vegetables and herbs from the mountain. These are catered to tourists, and ordering them helps the village's economy, which relies primarily on tourism to sustain itself.



Along the way, visitors will see broken sections of the Huanghuacheng Great Wall stretching from steep ridges.

Photos by Li Xin

Travel information

Getting there: Drive along North Third Ring Road and into Badaling Expressway from Madi-anjiao. After reaching Changping Lukou, turn to 108 Highway and drive straight to Shuiquanguo.

Notes:

1. Bring sunglasses and sunscreen, extra sandals (you'll be crossing lots of rivers) and enough drinking water.

2. From luye.info:

Renting a round-trip long-distance bus (two hours): 50 yuan

Huanghuacheng Waterside Great Wall: 10-30 yuan (depending on your bargaining skills)

Crossing the bridge: 1 yuan

Renting a boat: 3-5 yuan

3. Litter remains a persistent problem. There are no refuse bins in the mountain, so bring extra bags for trash and be sure to properly dispose your garbage.

Dining



Celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival

In celebration of Mid-Autumn Festival, Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun has an array of both traditional and sugar-free mooncakes. Each is packaged in auspicious red colors that symbolize peace and harmony. The mooncakes are an ideal gift for friends and business associates on this joyous occasion.

Where: Crowne Plaza Beijing Zhongguancun, 106 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 5993 8888 ext. 2331

Feed your senses

Explore Prego's new menu with the season's best. Chef Fabrizio inspires the senses with fresh home-made tagliolini and tantalizing king prawns. His signature Tuscan soup features succulent seafood and the magical combination of tender cod saltimbocca and parma ham. Prego's alfresco barbecue in the Westin Garden is open every Friday and Saturday night.

Where: The Westin Beijing Financial Street, 9b Financial Street, Xicheng District

Tel: 6606 8866

Nishimura for lobster lovers

Through the end of August, it's all about lobster at the award-winning Japanese restaurant Nishimura. Head Chef Yoshinori uses every Japanese technique to present his "king of seafood," a collection of dishes marked by subtle differences of flavor and texture. Come discover sashimi, teppanyaki, robata-yaki, tempura, miso and curry as you've never seen it before.

Where: Nishimura, Shangri-La Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 6841 2211 ext. 6719

International craving

Cafe Noir offers an extensive selection of Southeast Asian and international foods like spaghetti, sushi, sashimi and salads, and desserts like mousse cake, tiramisu and Movenpick ice cream. The popular Weekend Buffet Brunch for 118 yuan per person now includes free soft drinks.

Where: Cafe Noir, 2 Dongsihuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 11:30 am — 2:30 pm, Sat-

urdays and Sundays
Tel: 5907 8416

Indian lunch, dinner buffet

Swagat Indian Restaurant offers the best of authentic Indian cuisine with its traditional menu. The restaurant uses a charcoal-fired Tandoori oven to produce healthy grilled meats, seafood and veggies as well as freshly baked naan bread. Dishes contain no added fat. Swagat is sure to be a lovely meal for both family and friends.

Where: Swagat Indian Restaurant, B1-07 Landgent City Mall, 22 Dongsanhuan Lu, Chaoyang District (near Shuangjing Bridge)

Cost: 38 yuan (lunch buffet), 62 yuan (dinner buffet), 48 yuan including drinks and desserts (weekend buffet)

Tel: 6770 1610



Ocean extravaganza

Dive into a meal of fresh oysters, lobsters, crabs, mussels and prawns at the weekend seafood buffet dinner at The Ritz-Carlton Financial Street. Tantalize your taste buds with an appetizer of fresh salad greens, sashimi, sushi and a hearty selection of soups. After that move on to barbecued meats like suckling pig and Beijing duck. Every guest will be served either a Boston lobster or a King Sea scallop.

Where: The Ritz-Carlton Financial Street, 1 Jinchengfang Dong Jie, Jinrong Jie, Xicheng District

When: 5:30—9:30 pm, Fridays and Saturdays

Cost: 328 yuan for adults (seafood buffet dinner), 164 yuan for children (6-12 years); includes free soft drinks, fresh juice, house red and white wines, vodka from the caviar station and coffee or tea

Tel: 6629 6990

Low-fat mooncakes

Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing has a healthy, low-fat version of the Chinese traditional mooncake in special packages featuring porcelain.

Give a box to show your good wishes to a family member, friend or business associate.

Where: Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing, 97 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

Cost: 188 yuan per box (Elegant Moon Cake Gift Box), 208 yuan (Noble Moon Cake Gift Box), 258 yuan (Grand Moon Cake Gift Box)
Tel: 8522 1999 ext. 3621

Eat free with a lucky name

If your name contains three of the Chinese characters in Tian Lun Wang Chao, the Chinese name of Sunworld Dynasty Hotel Beijing, come in for a free seafood buffet dinner. Diners with two characters eat at 30 percent off. Diners with one character save 10 percent at Dynasty Plaza now through September 30.

Where: Sunworld Dynasty Hotel Beijing, 50 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 6-10 pm, before September 30

Cost: 298 yuan per person
Tel: 5816 8888 ext. 8298

Exquisitely packaged mooncakes

Hilton Beijing Wangfujing is presenting exquisitely packaged mooncakes as a perfect gift for your family, friends and corporate partners. Flavors include egg yolk with mango custard, cheese cranberry, egg yolk with white lotus, Matcha sorbet, swallow's nest, dual egg yolks with white lotus seed, honey melon, cheese blueberry, lavender Hokkaido milk grape, chestnut paste, huaishan with sweet cashew nut, red bean with mochi, and red bean with green tea.

Where: Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, 8 Wangfujing Dong Jie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 5812 8888 ext. 8406



Summer specials

Summer is here, and Lan Club is ready with a special menu based on traditional Chinese medicine. The restaurant uses the freshest ingredients cooked in innovative

ways for dishes both delicious and healthy. Try an incredible mix of grapefruit and shrimp or bitter melon and chicken.

Where: Lan Club, 4F Twins Towers, B12 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5109 6012



Summer Saturdays

Every Saturday this summer, Chef Ana Esteves is presenting a special signature lunch and traditional Brazilian feijoada. The signature lunch is a selection of Ana's personal favorites made from seasonal produce. Popular dishes come back each week, so any visit is guaranteed to have great food in hearty portions. For those interested in something a little different, traditional Brazilian Feijoada is not to be missed on Saturday afternoons.

Where: SALT, 9 Jiangtai Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

Cost: 148 yuan, 178 yuan, 198 yuan

Tel: 6437 8457

MANA Sunday seafood brunch

Mediterranean seafood is a cuisine as varied as the sea is vast. These dishes offer delightful simplicity on hot summer days. Come in for the special summer menu of exotic dishes guaranteed to impress.

Where: MANA, 2 Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie, Chaoyang District

Cost: 198 yuan with one glass of white wine (two courses); 228 yuan with one glass of white wine (three courses)

Tel: 6460 6721

Indulge in seafood

Experience the perfect combination of fresh material and superb cooking. Asia Bistro's food stations offer a wide range of fresh seafood including lobsters, oysters, Alaskan crab legs, abalone, shark fins and deep sea fish. Talk with the chef to have your seafood meal done just the way you like it.

Where: Asia Bistro, JW Marriott Hotel Beijing, 83 Jianguo Lu, China Central Place, Chaoyang District

When: 6 pm, Fridays

Cost: 388 yuan, includes free soft drinks, juice, beer and Maotai Yingbing
Tel: 5908 8995

Aviation

SilkAir adds flights for winter

SilkAir Airlines will add more flights to keep up with demand for regional travel in Asia. The changes will be in effect this winter. There will be a total of four daily flights on the Singapore-Penang route and an additional five flights per week on the Singapore-Kuala Lumpur route.

British Airways deals for UK-bound students

British Airways has two special offers for UK-bound Chinese students with a valid UK student visa. Traveling students may carry one extra piece of luggage weighing up to 23 kilograms at no extra charge. Chinese students flying before March 31, 2011 can also get a discounted one-way economy-class ticket from either Beijing or Shanghai to London, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle or Jersey starting from 4,600 yuan: round-trip tickets start from 7,070 yuan with a mandatory layover in London.

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

A man of means



By Huang Daohen

My friend Lillian should have much to complain about recently: she was robbed while touring South Africa during the 2010 World Cup and broke her leg in a car accident on her return to Beijing.

But what annoyed her most is her English, because it nearly cost her the chance to meet Mr. Right.

Lillian, in her late 20s, has an enviable job. She is a CCTV reporter and it was through her company that she realized the dream of all young people: to travel the world.

But like most '80s children who live far from their families and work hard, Lillian has a problem: she has little time for socializing and is still single. So when Lillian was asked to attend a friend's

birthday party, she agreed.

At the party, the host, an American couple, introduced a young entrepreneur named Dennis to Lillian. Dennis is a *haigui*, Chinese slang for people who have returned to the country after having studied abroad. Now he runs a consulting company that provides business solutions to foreign companies who want to do business in China.

"He is really a man of means," whispered Jenny, one of Lillian's best friends from America, noticing the host's intentions. Jenny then left, leaving Lillian and Dennis alone.

Lillian interpreted "man of means" as "man who is mean": selfish, nasty or small-minded. Better to believe the worst, as an old Chinese saying goes. Lillian therefore deliberately avoided

talking to Dennis and soon left with an excuse.

It was only the next day that Lillian realized her mistake. In English, a man "of means" refers to one who is wealthy, but doesn't at all need to imply selfish or ignoble.

"I was giving the signal of support instead of caution," Jenny said. "Dead meat."

Despite the incident, Lillian salvaged the situation when she and Dennis went on a real date.

That aside, I wondered whether Lillian got the point of Jenny calling her "dead meat." From a friend, that's not a curse, of course. But when you say someone is dead meat, you imply that they are in serious trouble. I wonder how Lillian and Dennis are doing now.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. Many more people will be told that they are on their way to get Alzheimer's disease.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): It seems perfect in every aspect. What is wrong with it? As a matter of fact, there is something wrong. Where? Let me explain. In English, there is a phrase "on the way to peace." We also have "on the pathway to peace," "on the road to victory," etc. The phrase "on the way to" is followed by a noun, either "peace" or "victory." So, it cannot be followed by an infinitive as seen above. It has to be followed by a participle phrase: Many more people will be told that they are on their way to getting Alzheimer's disease. I have another example from *International Herald Tribune* for you: "There seemed to be no pathway to defining or prosecuting the crime of aggression." So, please make sure you are not confused about this.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): I had something really important to say about this. I prepared it in my head on the way to work today but, now that I'm at my computer, I forgot everything. When I went to the doctor, she told me that I am suffering from the onset of early Alzheimer's. But with the Chinese medicinal soup she prescribed for me, I am now on the road to recovery. Now, if I could just remember the road home ...

2. The largest group of foreign students in Germany are from China.

ZS: Students are often confused with which predicate should be used in the case of "the group of" and "a group of." In the sample sentence, "the group of" should take the third-person singular: The largest group of foreign students in Germany is from China. While in the case of "a group of," it should have third-person plural: A group of foreign students in the class are from China. I now give you another example: The greatest number of migrant workers at the factory is from Sichuan. A great number of migrant workers at the factory speak Sichuanese. Are you clear now?

TBZ: This is a really tough grammar point. With "the group of" and "the greatest number of," you are talking about "the" group (one group in particular), so use the singular. With "a group of," the "a" generalizes it, meaning that you are really talking about "students," so you need the plural. So very easy to make a mistake!

3. Right now we awash in cheap credit.

ZS: "Awash" is an adjective or adverb, it is mistaken as a verb here. It is an adjective or adverb with the prefix "a-" meaning "in the act of," such as aflutter, or "in the condition of," such as aweary. These words usually serve as a predicative. Here, "awash" is an adjective or adverb showing "in the act of." Let me show you some examples: When awash means "level with the surface of the water," we have: The beach is awash with the flowing tide. When it means "floating," we have: The floodwater set everything awash in the cellar. When it means "overflowing," we have: The music is awash with melancholy. Or, the market is awash with shoddy products. So, for the sentence above, it should read: Right now we are awash in cheap credit. It means we are virtually submerged by cheap credit. Please take note that, while we may say "a man who is asleep," we cannot say "an asleep man."

TBZ: I'd like to create a new sentence form here: An asleep man is awash in cheap credit. What do you think? Can we start a language revolution at *Beijing Today*?

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Car Parking Fee things take care of themselves

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

I love Chinglish because it makes me smile. I also love the whole puzzle of translation because it isn't as straightforward as it appears. Having started a bit of translating myself, I have been amazed by how many times I either (a) know what the whole sentence means but not how to translate it into English, or (b) know each and every word in the sentence but have no idea what the whole thing means. I now realize how very easy it is to mangle a simple concept. Take this sign, for

example. The parking is free in Chinese but comes for a fee in English. Well, I guess that is how it goes sometimes, isn't it? And, while we would all like "car things (to) take care of themselves" – no more filling, washing, checking the tires, filling chips in the windshield; perhaps we can even teach our car to pick up a Timmy's on the way home – I am afraid that this is a long ways away in the future. Instead, when you see this sign, you shouldn't have to pay for parking, but you will have to "protect your belongings."



Photo by Thomas Schwietz



A Single Man

(2009)



Movie of the week

Tom Ford, one of the top gay talents of the fashion world, directs this sensitive and emotional tale of a gay English professor's struggle in Los Angeles after the death of his lover.

Set in the 1960s, the story could have been simplistic and quiet – but Ford imbues the movie with a soul through his unique choice of lens and music.

Brilliant stars such as Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, Nicholas Hoult and Matthew Goode shine in the movie in costumes the director handpicked from the runway.

Synopsis

It's November 30, 1962, and native Brit George Falconer, an English professor at a Los Angeles area college, is finding it difficult to cope with life. Jim, his partner of 16 years, was slain in a car accident eight months earlier while visiting family.

George decides that today is the day to get his affairs in order so he can kill himself that evening.

But a day spent with various people who see a man sadder than usual gives him second thoughts about his plans.



Scene 1

(George wakes up from a nightmare about Jim's death.)

George's voice-over: For the past eight months waking up has actually hurt. The cold realization that I'm still here slowly **sets in** (1). I was never terribly fond of waking up. I was never one to jump out of bed and greet the day with a smile like Jim was.

I used to want to punch him sometimes in the morning – he was so happy. I always used to tell him that only fools greet the day with a smile, that only fools possibly escape the simple truth. That now isn't simply now. It's a cold reminder. One day later than yesterday. One year later than last year. And that sooner or later it will come.

He used to laugh at me and then give me a kiss on the cheek. It takes time in the morning for me to become George. The time to adjust to what is expected of George and how he is to behave.

By the time I have dressed and put the final layer of polish on the now slightly stiff but quite perfect George ... I know fully what part I'm supposed to play.

Looking in the mirror, staring back at me isn't so much as a face as the expression of a predicament.

Just get through the goddamn day.

A bit melodramatic, I guess. But then again ... my heart has been broken. I feel as if I am sinking, drowning ... can't breathe.

Scene 2

(George discusses an Aldous Huxley book with his students.)

George (G): After *Many a Summer Dies the Swan*. I think you've all read the Huxley novel I assigned more than three weeks ago? How does the title relate to our story? Yes, Mr. Mong.

Mong: It doesn't. It's about a rich guy who's too afraid that he's too old for this girl and thinks that a young guy ...

(George lost in his thoughts.)

G: Yes, Mr. Hirsch.

Hirsch: Sir, on page 79, Mr. Propter says that the stupidest text in the Bible is they hated me without a cause. Does that mean the Nazis were right to hate the Jews? Is Huxley an anti-Semite?

G: No. No, Mr. Huxley is not an anti-Semite. Of course, the Nazis were wrong to hate the Jews. But their hating the Jews was not without a cause. It's just that the cause wasn't real.

The cause was imagined. The cause was fear.

Let's leave the Jews out of this just for a moment. Let's think of another minority, one that can go unnoticed if it needs to. There are all sorts of minorities, blondes for example ... or people with freckles.

But a minority is only thought of as one when it constitutes some kind of threat to the majority. A real threat or an imagined one. And therein lies the fear. If the minority is somehow invisible and the fear is much greater. That fear is why the minor-

ity is persecuted.

So, you see there always is a cause. The cause is fear.

Minorities are just people. People like us.

I can see that I've lost you a bit. So tell you what? We're gonna forget about Mr. Huxley today and we're gonna talk about fear.

Fear, after all, is our real enemy. Fear is taking over our world. Fear is being used as a tool of manipulation in our society. It's how politicians **peddle** (2) policy. It's how Madison Avenue sells us things that we don't need.

Think about it. Fear of being attacked. Fear of that there are communists **lurking** (3) around every corner. Fear of that some little Caribbean country that doesn't believe in our way of life poses a threat to us. Fear that black culture may take over the world. Fear of Elvis Presley's hips.

Actually, maybe that one is a real fear.

Fear that our bad breath might ruin our friendships. Fear of growing old and being alone. The fear that we're useless and that no one cares what we have to say.

Have a good weekend.

Scene 3

(George visits his former girlfriend Charlotte's house.)

G: So, what are you doing here?

Kenny (K): Just out for a ride on my bike.

G: Is that all?

K: I don't know.

G: Were you looking for me?

K: Maybe. I don't know. I feel like my head's stopped up with stuff.

G: What kind of stuff?

K: Like, the stuff you were talking about today in class.

G: That is definitely not important.

K: No, it is important. Your class is great. But somehow we always seem to **get stuck** (4) talking about the past. The past just doesn't matter to me.

G: The present?

K: I can't wait for the present to be over. It's a total drag. Well, tonight is the exception.

G: So if the past doesn't matter and the present is a total drag, what about the future?

K: What future? Cuba might just blow us up.

G: Death is the future.

K: I'm sorry. I don't mean to be depressing.

G: It's not depressing. It's not depressing, it's true. It may not be your immediate future but it's what we all share. Death is the future.

Vocabulary

- set in:** to realize or understand
- peddle:** to travel about selling; here it means to make people accept
- lurk:** to lie in wait
- get stuck:** to be unable to move further; here it means always coming back to the subject.

(By Wang Yu)